

Kent on Sunday

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Mid Edition No 598

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Train firm's rough ride

We go face-to-face with the boss of Southeastern

GOVERNMENT »

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Fresh debate to re-examine local government

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Why commuters all have a tale of woe they need to tell

FOR anyone who has commuted to London by train for any period of time, the relationship you have with your mode of transport is a prickly one at best.

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Yet engage a commuter on the topic and every single one of them will settle back and reach into a very large, deep sack of stories which will make you feel like travelling to the capital on a daily basis is akin to the live animal export trade. Just more expensive.

I still shudder at the memory of slam-door stock with the windows that wouldn't close properly and countless journeys stood nose-to-nose with my fellow traveller.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

We don't, however, tend to remember the good journeys. We do ensure all our friends hear about the bad.

All of which makes the thought of being the boss of the rail company delivering the county's train services something of a double-edged sword. You may be in charge of a major chunk of the nation's transport network, but on a near daily basis the sound on platforms is almost deafening with mutterings from irate travellers about what they'd like to do to you. And not in a good way.

Thus our meeting this week with Charles Horton, the chief of Southeastern, will be essential reading for anyone who has commuted by rail in recent years.

And if you thought that created plenty of discussion points, have a read of the piece about the future of Kent

County Council too; it raises plenty of interesting issues. Enjoy your weekend.

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Projects given £3m boost to pave way for new jobs

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO projects are set to benefit to the tune of more than £3million in the latest round of funding from central government's Coastal Communities Fund, destined to create jobs and opportunities for apprentices.

The biggest beneficiary in the county will be the proposed sustainable energy visitor centre being developed at the site of what was once Betteshanger Colliery.

Driven by Hadlow College, the project has received £2.5m.

A spokesman for the Treasury said: "The centre will showcase sustainable technologies and products, feature a biomass energy complex and celebrate east Kent's coalmining heritage and aims to be Europe's first fully integrated complex seeking global solutions in ecology, sustainable technologies, water and food security."

Hadlow's director of finance Mark Lumsdon-Taylor said the creation of a nationally significant visitor destination – underpinned by environmental technology and innovation – should not be underestimated.



ENERGY: New centre will celebrate Kent's coalmining heritage while showcasing sustainable technologies

"With the wider project including celebration of the important Kent mining heritage and commercial development, this scheme will act as a centre for innovation, creativity and opportunity. This will make a real and substantial difference to east Kent and we could not be more delighted."

The other local project to benefit is a flagship scheme in Medway which has received £598,528.

It will go towards Medway Council's 'Creative High Street'

project which will see what is known locally as the Lower High Street, running from Star Hill in Rochester to Sun Pier in Chatham, receive cash to create 140 new jobs and 240 training places by establishing new work, exhibition and studio space to allow creative industries to flourish.

The Treasury said these are just two out of 50 projects across the UK awarded a share of £27.7m.

Leader of Medway Council, Rodney Chambers, said: "This

funding will help deliver a programme of business support and training to support new and established businesses in the cultural and creative industries sector."

He said the authority will work with universities, business support partners, creative industries and the local community to deliver the project, which will run until 2016.

Bidding for the next round of grants is now open. Those relating to coastal flood protection and repair are to be prioritised.

Thousands offered first choice school as others begin appeal process

THOUSANDS of Kent children have been offered their first choice secondary school, education chiefs have announced.

But while 13,092 are celebrating, some 1,512 were given their second choice, 478 their third and 181 their fourth.

For 404 pupils, it was none of their choices, where instead Kent County Council, the local education authority, chose them a school.

This is usually when parents have only given one preference which was not allocated.

Parents were invited to pick four schools in the application process last November in order of preference. Of the 1,991 out of county applicants, 602 got a place in a Kent secondary.

KCC said 83.5 per cent of children overall received their first preference and 97.4 per cent one of their four choices.

Roger Gough, KCC cabinet member for education and health reform, said: "I am pleased KCC has

been able to do such a good job with secondary admissions again.

"When working with so many thousands of applications, giving 13,092 children their first choice school is a great outcome.

"While the vast majority of parents will be celebrating, we must not lose sight of the fact that a small proportion of pupils were not offered a place at one of their preferred schools.

"This group of children and families will be disappointed, and I would like to reassure them that National Offer Day is the first stage of the school allocation process.

"There will be movement through waiting lists, reallocation on April 23 and appeals that will enable more children to secure one of their preferred schools before the start of the school year."

Almost 82 per cent of Medway primary school children due to start secondary school in September were offered their first choice place.

Ten per cent were given their second choice and three per cent their third.

Farage prepares for debate on BBC TV with deputy PM

UKIP leader Nigel Farage is to appear in a head-to-head debate with the deputy prime minister, Nick Clegg, over the UK's role in Europe.

Mr Farage, who lives in Westerham, is strongly tipped to compete for a seat in Westminster in a Kent constituency at next year's General Election – possibly Thanet South which is being vacated by Laura Sandys.

For now, however, Mr Farage will feature in an hour-long debate to be shown on BBC2 on April 2, hosted by David Dimbleby.

Mr Farage and Mr Clegg will chew over the main issues ahead of May's European elections, in which Ukip is expected to make significant gains.

The Liberal Democrats are pro-Europe, while Ukip insists the UK would be better off opting out.

Skier Millie Knight flies GB flag at Winter Paralympics

YOUNG Canterbury skier Millie Knight had the honour of carrying the Great Britain flag at Friday's Paralympic Winter Games opening ceremony in Sochi.

The 15-year-old, whose vision was impaired by a parasitic infection she picked up as a baby and who will compete with her guide Rachael Ferrier, is the Paralympic GB team's youngest

member at Sochi.

The King's School Canterbury pupil described her selection for the flag-carrying role in the Fisht Stadium as "the best feeling ever".

She will be with her guide and fellow skiers James Whitley and Ben Sneesby for the Winter Paralympics.

Turn to the pages 70 and 71 for a special feature on Millie Knight.



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Teen pregnancy rates show dramatic decline

TEENAGE pregnancies in Kent have fallen below the national average, according to figures released this week.

Kent County Council, which is responsible for public health, said a drop of 30 per cent had been seen in the number of conceptions in 15 to 17-year-olds over five years, from 1,035 down to 725.

The figures, covering 2008-2012, show conceptions dropped from 31 in every 1,000 to 25.9.

In some areas of the county, numbers have halved.

Graham Gibbens, KCC cabinet member for adult social care and public health, said: "These figures show the approach we have taken in the county is proving effective. We will carry on working with schools, our partners the Kent Community Health NHS Trust, and with others to keep going with this downward trend."



IMPRESSION: How it appeared in sky

Fraud warning renewed after spate of PIN tricks targeting the vulnerable

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

POLICE are urging us again never to reveal our bank PIN numbers to anyone after a spate of fraud cases - especially targeting the elderly or vulnerable - across the county.

Criminals have been cold-calling victims in a bid to obtain their banking details and cards to withdraw money from their bank accounts.

Earlier this year Kent Police received reports of incidents in Dartford and Gravesend and just this Monday 10 residents in the Canterbury area reported they had been targeted.

In each case on Monday, the elderly residents in Canterbury did the right thing by not divulging personal information and reporting the incidents instead.

Their actions have been welcomed by Detective Chief Inspector Keith Davies, from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, who the following day hosted an event to draw



KEEP IT SAFE: Protect your PIN

more attention to the issue.

DCI Davies said: "It is encouraging that people are spotting these fraudsters and then reporting it to us so we can investigate the incidents."

"I would also encourage those

who have handed over their bank details or card to report the incident to Action Fraud by calling 0300 1232040.

"Often people are embarrassed that they have become a victim of this type of crime, but unfortunately you are not alone. Kent Police is committed to catching offenders of fraud and bringing them before the courts."

"The sad thing about this type of crime is the criminals are targeting the vulnerable and elderly, who are trusting of authority."

During an event to raise attention to the problems, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes explained how her late mother-in-law had been a victim. She said: "This poor lady stopped going out and said how ashamed she had been to be caught out by a fraudster."

"I dislike the word 'scam' - fraud is a crime, a horrible crime that makes people feel ashamed and can ruin lives."

To avoid falling victim to fraud visit the Kent Police website.

Multi-million pound haul of drugs at port

HEROIN and cocaine with a street value worth millions of pounds have been seized at the Port of Dover.

Border Force officers stopped and searched a Slovenian-registered lorry last Sunday which was carrying a load of acoustic panels and found around 18 kilos of drugs in the cab.

Once cut and sold they would have had a street value running into millions of pounds.

Dragan Petric, 52, a lorry driver from Pozarevac, Serbia, appeared at Folkestone Magistrates' Court on Monday charged with the importation.

He withheld his plea and was remanded in custody. He will appear at Canterbury Crown Court on March 24.

Paul Morgan, director of Border Force, said: "This is an excellent seizure of extremely harmful drugs and I would like to pay tribute to the vigilance and hard work of the officers involved."

"We will continue to work hard to keep our borders safe and crack down on drug smuggling."

Little dog is savagely attacked on trip out

A SMALL dog was left with 'substantial injuries' and its owner also bitten after a savage attack by another animal as they walked across a recreation ground in Ramsgate.

The woman was at the ground in Newington Road on Monday between 9am and 9.30am with her bijon/shitsu in her arms when a large black dog ran over.

It attacked the smaller dog, causing substantial injuries. The woman was also bitten on her arm.

The owner of the black dog - which looked like a black Labrador but with longer legs - ran over and tried to pull the animals apart.

He too received a bite to his left hand causing it to bleed.

Police are trying to trace the owner who is described as a white man aged in his late 30s, around 5ft 5in tall, of chubby build who was wearing a hat and a red puffa-style jacket.

Anyone with information should call Det Con Lee Goodey on 101 quoting crime ref: ZY/6993/14.

Stars lend support to children's hospice

STRICTLY Come Dancing judge Len Goodman and TV presenter and singer Cheryl Baker have become vice presidents of children's hospice Demelza.

Bucks Fizz star Baker, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, has been a long time supporter of the hospice, based in Bobbing, near Sittingbourne.

She officially opened the first charity shop in Sittingbourne in November 1998 and last year not only ran the London Marathon in aid of the charity but also performed at its fundraising Music on the Hill event at Kings Hill.

Strictly judge Len Goodman, who runs a dance school in Dartford, has made several visits to the hospice, fronting campaigns and taking part in celebrity Q&A sessions for the charity.

He said: "In the time I've supported Demelza I've been honoured to meet some of the children and families and see the wonderful support they receive from Demelza and what a difference the services make to each and every one of them."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Claire Tiltman murder suspect due in court

A FORMER milkman charged with the murder of schoolgirl Claire Tiltman 21 years after her death will appear in court on Monday.

Colin Ash-Smith, 45, was charged by police last month after the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate presented a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service following a cold case review.

He appeared at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on February 28 via video link and was due to appear at crown on March 3 but the case was adjourned until Monday.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday three men charged with a total of 53 offences relating to sex abuse of children at the now closed Swaylands School in Penshurst between



1967 and 1993 will appear at Maidstone Magistrates' Court.

It follows a lengthy and complex investigation by the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate which identified multiple victims.

Consultation event over solar panel farm scheme

A PUBLIC exhibition takes place on Thursday over plans for a 53-acre solar farm near Sittingbourne.

Eco Energy World is hosting the event to set out its plans to build a 10MW solar project on 21 hectares of land at Stickfast Lane in Bobbing.

The event will provide the local community with the

opportunity to find out more about the proposal, which, once operational, could generate enough energy to power approximately 2,700 homes.

Members of the project development team will be on hand to discuss the plans and answer any questions.

The exhibition runs from 2pm – 7pm at Bobbing Village Hall.

...also

Rail line to finally reopen

RAIL chiefs have confirmed the Hastings to Tonbridge line, disrupted by landslips, will finally reopen on Tuesday.

It follows a setback with the planned reopening last week. For more on South-eastern see our in-depth chat with boss Charles Horton on page nine.

Ofsted results examined

EDUCATION chiefs at County Hall will discuss a report summarising the performance of Kent's schools in Ofsted inspection between last September and February this year.

They will examine the overall latest inspection figures for all schools in the area.

Flag raising celebrations

FLAG raising ceremonies will be taking place across Kent on Monday to mark Commonwealth Day.

Councils, dignitaries and community groups will join together in what will be the largest single raising of the Commonwealth flag in the history of the Commonwealth.

Trio in court over crash

TWO men and one woman will appear in court in Folkestone on Monday charged with offences relating to a crash which killed Emma Willis near Dover.

The 23-year-old was a passenger in a car which came off the road and overturned in a field on August 17 last year.



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WHEN train operator Southeastern saw its franchise extended under a new direct award system by the Government, there was uproar in the commuting community.

Due to run out in 2014, it was to be the moment, they hoped, a new franchisee would step in and provide the service they had been crying out for.

Instead, Southeastern was given the chance to bid in a single tender arrangement – in short, it would have its franchise automatically extended until 2018.

All Southeastern had to do was put in a document which ticked the right boxes. With no competition, and failure almost unimaginable, those who had argued it was time for a new operator were left stunned.

After all, it wasn't just irate commuters getting hot under the collar. A host of the county's MPs were demanding action too.

Yet speaking to KoS this week, Southeastern's managing director Charles Horton insisted to secure the four-year extension it still needed to convince ministers it was the right operator for the job before any fresh deal was signed.

He also insisted he understood the frustrations of passengers, but stated that improvements had, and still are, being made.

However, Mr Horton is no stranger to fielding hostile questioning.

In fact, calls have, in recent years, been made for his resignation by long-suffering commuters, and a handful of Kent MPs have slung more than a few choice words in his direction.

And really it's no wonder considering the reputation of Southeastern, which only last month was ranked as one of the worst in the country for passenger satisfaction levels by consumer group Which?

It came as no surprise. Rarely – with the exception of travel during the London 2012 Games – has there been much praise headed in the company's direction.

This is despite the introduction of the transformational high speed rail service – slashing journey times from Kent to London – improvements to stations and facilities, and an increase in services across the network since it took over the franchise in 2006; things which Mr Horton says have been incredibly positive for commuters.

But with the good has come the bad, including problems with the high speed line along the north Kent coast, bad communication with passengers during disrupted services and – perhaps the most common complaint – the year-on-year rise of already crippling fares for a service which many believe has not improved sufficiently to warrant the price hikes.

These have perhaps eclipsed what is undoubtedly an enhanced service for many areas of Kent due to the introduction of High Speed One.

Mr Horton is no doubt resilient and instead uses passengers' criticism as a driver to improve.

But, only human, he does admit to sometimes feeling a "little bruised" at the onslaught.

"Criticism is part of the job," said the 49-year-old.

"When you deliver a service day in, day out, it's understandable that on



Criticism is a chance to improve says train boss

Commuters and MPs have long criticised Southeastern and had hoped a new firm would take over our rail service but it looks to be staying. Boss Charles Horton insists its service and performance are improving, writes **Marijke Cox**

occasions things are going to go wrong and that people will be critical.

"I fully accept and understand that – they pay a lot of money to travel with us and it's really important we listen to them, and we do our best to improve services as a result of their feedback.

"I remember reading something once that most people would prefer to be ruined by praise than saved by

criticism. I'd prefer to be saved by criticism because criticism and feedback is an opportunity to improve.

"So I'm very strongly of the view that feedback is useful, that a lot of what we've done in terms of improving services and the way we do things has come from people's criticism, and observation about us, and therefore I take it on the chin and I accept it and I seek to find ways to be better as a re-

sult of what people say about us."

His comments are unlikely to appease frustrated commuters who simply want to go about their business without having the stress of what many believe is a sub-standard service.

But Mr Horton – previously managing director of sister operator Southern Rail – is steadfast in his

view that things have improved since Southeastern came on the scene in Kent eight years ago.

"It's been really challenging but fun and also a very rewarding time," he said.

"We had ambitions with this franchise when we started and many of those ambitions we've fulfilled.

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"We said we'd improve performance and Southeastern is now the best on this part of the network; we said we'd grow passenger numbers, we've grown passenger numbers; we said we'd introduce the first high speed domestic service in the UK, we've done that; we said we'd drive up customer satisfaction and the last customer satisfaction survey Southeastern delivered it's best ever level."

Pressed on performance levels, he insisted these had improved despite commuters thinking otherwise.

"There is an internationally accepted measure of performance called PPM [Public Performance Measure] and it's all trains, every day, arriving within five minutes of their scheduled arrival time," he said.

"Systems on the track measure it. If a train skips a stop, or misses a station or is cancelled, that counts as a failure, or if it's more than five minutes late, it's a failure."

"Given it is a measure of that nature, any one individual experience may not fully tally with that and so you get people saying 'well hang on a minute, that's not my experience' and that may be the case."

"But the reality is on overall terms we have increased the level of performance against the PPM measure and I think most people over time would accept that."

"That doesn't mean we haven't got to get better still, and I fully understand if people are critical of us and want us to improve performance and get better at satisfying customers."

"I'm on their side and I agree with them, I'd like to be better, I'm certainly not complacent in any way, shape or form. We've got a lot to do to continue to drive up performance and improve the consistency of our service."

Certainly Southeastern faces a perception issue. It's fair to say its brand image is not overly positive. High profile problems give the franchise a negative connotation with travellers.

And there is no less forgiving bunch than the commuter who expects his, or her, train to turn up at the allotted time, transport them in

“A lot of what we've done in terms of improving services and the way we do things has come from people's criticism, and observation of us...”

Charles Horton,
Southeastern MD



WHAT TO EXPECT: The brand new station at London Bridge is just part of the huge Thameslink project

Building work for the £6.5 billion Thameslink project will cause major disruption to train services

AT THE end of last year the race to secure the contract for the biggest rail franchise in the UK, paving the way for travel across London from parts of Kent without having to change trains, began.

In an ambitious move by Westminster's transport chiefs, the routes currently served by Great Northern, Southern Railway and Thameslink (known as the First Capital Connect (FCC) route in Kent) – will combine under one franchise umbrella, using the Thameslink name, from next year.

A decision as to who will take it over will be decided in May.

Meanwhile, plans for the £6.5 billion Thameslink programme are already under way.

It will cause major rail disruption

to travellers from Kent.

"Part of this is to boost capacity by a substantial amount, so 24 trains per hour through the core and 12-car platforms where at the moment there are eight," said Charles Horton.

"To get those services put in place is going to require the remodelling of London Bridge and its approaches."

"So, a brand new station which is going to be absolutely fantastic, because London Bridge is one of the most disappointing major terminus at the moment."

"To achieve that, to rebuild the station, to rebuild the approaches to London Bridge, to separate out the tracks means in the next four years there are going to be

significant changes to services.

"One of our big challenges during the Thameslink programme is to communicate to customers what services are going to be operating, which ones aren't, what alternative journeys are and how people are going to get around London during that period of time."

"We've also got the challenge of making sure the performance of the train services, the punctuality and reliability, are as good as possible."

"Customers will first notice those changes in January 2015."

He said Southeastern will be working alongside the new Thameslink franchisee to make sure things run smoothly.

relative comfort, and deliver them to the destination at the advertised time. And understandably too.

It's perhaps during adverse weather, though, when tempers really reach boiling point.

During the winter of 2010/2011 when heavy snowfall hit Kent, the operator faced a barrage of criticism.

Passengers were left stranded on cold trains for several hours, commuters stuck on platforms were given conflicting information and Southeastern then decided to run an extremely limited service.

The operator's performance was deemed "dismal" by MPs including Thanet North's Roger Gale, Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless and Tunbridge Wells' Greg Clark.

They called for the firm to be stripped of its franchise.

Southeastern vowed to improve services – particularly its communication with passengers – and used de-icing equipment to solve problems with the third rail power system, which the mainline service runs on and which freezes in cold weather.

But it's not just snow.

Last month, angry commuters were left stranded when trains in Folkestone were cancelled with little notice due to flooding between Chilham and Chartham following the severe weather.

It's even announced the night before, that no services would run at all in the peak times as a result of the mere expectation of bad weather.

And this week, despite assurances that a full train service would run again between Hastings and Tonbridge following a landslide, there were more delays.

"I'm not directly responsible for snow or rain but what I would say is that I'm responsible for the service," said Mr Horton, who this week told travellers on the Hastings line they would receive £50 in M&S vouchers.

"We do our best, when there is severe weather, to get the services running as best we can, but there are times when it is frustrating you can't run the service because of heavy snow, or landslips or floods."

"It's a reality. The weather in this country happens and what we've got to do is make our services, and our infrastructure, as resilient as possible with bad weather."

And communication?

"The last thing people want is to get to a station and when they get there, there's no services running," he said. "If we can't run the service for whatever reason, the most important thing to people is they know what's going on."

"Communication is still an area where people are concerned. If you look at what passengers are concerned about, however well you're doing, over time most people are concerned



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about their train arriving on time, not being cancelled and being able to get a seat.

"Often the fourth thing on the list is communication – telling them when things are going wrong.

"Things have got better but we're not complacent, there is still room for improvement."

Not that Southeastern can be held responsible for everything. Network Rail is responsible for the rail infrastructure – and, for example, the repair of that troublesome track between Hastings and Tonbridge.

Mr Horton, while unlikely to be many commuters' favourite person, does not hide away in an office letting his staff deal with complaints.

Since 2006, every four weeks he takes to a London terminal with other Southeastern managers to come face-to-face with passengers in his 'Meet the Manager' events.

"They're very popular. We get a real mix of feedback. Some people want to talk about a very detailed issue.

"Others want to come up and simply say they're really unhappy or tell you what they think.

"Others have questions about things they're not sure about.

"What's really nice is that we'll often get people pop back and tell you they raised this and it's been fixed.

"The great thing about it is it's a source of direct feedback from passengers.

"We do a lot of surveys as well into what our customers think in a very systematic way. We look very hard at our complaints data to see what that's telling us.

"A lot of our improvement plans are driven from the feedback we get directly from things like passenger surveys and complaints data, but also very importantly, when we've heard it straight from the customer's mouth."

Mr Horton is insistent improvements have been made since Southeastern took up the franchise, but he admitted this didn't always add up to passengers being satisfied.

But he stressed the operator had successfully pushed to "lighten and

“We’ve done a lot of station work and improvements – a lot of things which people have actually put in the bank and forgotten about...”

Charles Horton,
On Southeastern's improvements



JUSTIFYING THOSE RELENTLESS TICKET PRICE INCREASES...

COST is perhaps first and foremost the biggest gripe of commuters.

Some in Kent must now pay more than £5,000 annually for a season ticket to London, following a price hike in January.

Although a cap was introduced by the Government, the average price rise for Southeastern fares was still 2.8 per cent – in line with the national increase.

The Chancellor announced in December the average increase for regulated fares – season and peak tickets – would be in line with July's Retail Price Index (RPI), rather than the previously planned RPI plus one per cent.

Southeastern argues that it's the Government's decision to put the cost of the railway onto the passenger.

Charles Horton said: "No doubt about it, people pay a lot of money

to us for their rail travel and from passengers' point of view they have a very reasonable expectation for a good service, when they pay the kind of money they do.

"There are only two ways of funding the railway, the taxpayer and fare payer. Fare payers pay about two-thirds of the cost and the taxpayer roughly a third.

"Successive governments have had a policy of moving more of the burden of funding to the fare payer than the general taxpayer."

He stressed that fares this year went up by the rate of inflation.

"We are actually permitted to increase an individual fare by up to two per cent above the rate of inflation as long as the overall average remains across the service."

But he denied claims the company pushed up prices on the

most popular commuter routes to drive revenues.

He added: "From our point of view we have to be mindful of people's willingness to pay.

"A lot of people think of the railways as a service where people have little choice, but there are people that will make journeys in cars, in coaches."

He denied train travel was no more expensive than driving to London.

"I don't agree with that – people don't tend to factor in the cost of insurance, the cost of wear and tear on the car. We've also seen fuel prices going up.

"One of the factors in the rail industry is journeys have increased. That brings its own challenges, with more people travelling the challenge then becomes to provide capacity."

AFTER coming under fire for delays to train services, Southeastern took the decision to introduce a compensation scheme which would see passengers able to claim back costs if their journey is delayed by 30 minutes or more.

Charles Horton says "plenty" of people use the scheme, despite claims in the media recently that wasn't the case due to a lack of promotion.

"Certainly we've had no challenge with getting people to put their delay and repay forms in and we've been very strong at promoting it as well.

"We want people to get recompense.

"The numbers are growing and I'm absolutely delighted that people are claiming."

brighten" trains and stations, remove graffiti within 24 hours, improve customer services and develop staff.

"We've reformed and improved the way in which we run our business so we've become more efficient.

"We've also done a lot of station work and improvements – a lot of things which people have actually put in the bank and forgotten

about in many respects.

"A lot of our stations have had a lot of work done in terms of things like improving toilet facilities and booking hall areas.

"So, there's been a lot that we've done but does that add up to people being satisfied at all times? Of course not. People are rightly ambitious for more; we're ambitious for more."

Despite heavy criticism, Mr Horton, who lives in Horsham in Sussex, remains resolute that things are getting better.

He also paid tribute to his staff who, most likely, are the ones bearing the brunt of commuters' woes.

"My staff care very deeply about looking after customers.

"So when they get criticism, inevi-

tably they feel a bit bruised, but actually the reason why is not because the criticism's unfair, it's because they want to do the best possible job they can.

"Many of them do exceptional things and get praise and recognition.

"One of the greatest pleasures is receiving really nice feedback from customers."



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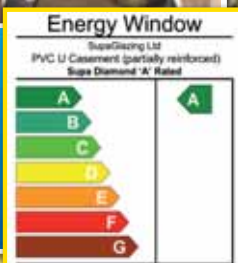
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Should we axe KCC to stop doubling up of services and to save money?

Calls are growing for the end of the current two-tier council system and the creation of all-powerful grass-roots level authorities, writes **Marijke Cox.**

IF THERE is one phrase which has lurked close to the surface of the Coalition at all times, it is surely that of 'localism'.

The vote-grabbing devolution of power to those at grass-roots level attracts scorn and praise in equal measure, but as a concept it has weaved its way into the fabric of our society.

And, as a consequence, any hopes of creating more locally-run governance are being raised again by supporters who are unleashing the localism bat to fight with.

Should it work this time, it would change dramatically the way local services in the county are delivered.

Because today, those who had previously pushed for the creation of unitary authorities are throwing their hats back into the ring, demanding what they believe to be a more accountable, connected and localised system of governance.

They argue that with the complexity of local government – with its county, district, parish and town councils – accountability currently gets lost in the muddled waters of who is responsible for what services.

They say it also leads to duplication and, more worryingly, wasted money.

Not for the first time, critics of the current system are demanding Kent County Council, which is based at County Hall in Maidstone, be abolished and instead a network of unitary authorities put in its place, covering different areas of the county.

Kent Green Party is the latest to step forward with this demand.

The party says there could be six authorities, covering Thanet and Dover; Canterbury and Swale; Shepway and Ashford; Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling; Dartford and Gravesham; and Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells.

Chair of the county's party and prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald, Stuart Jeffrey, called the existing county council "too large and unwieldy".

"It lacks any real connection and accountability to the people it serves," he said.

"Local government should, by definition, be based as close to its electors as possible, rather than being inaccessible to most of Kent's residents. Smaller unitary councils will bring together areas of Kent which are already closely connected and share many common issues.

"They will also bring together residents, staff and politicians with an expert understanding

of the areas covered by the new councils.

"This would place them in a stronger position to develop more effective policies and strategies than the current Maidstone-based system."

The argument is that split into smaller authorities across the county, which has a population of more than a million, there will be a better connection with local people and greater accountability.

Medway is already a unitary authority, reorganising in 1974 to see Strood Rural District Council, the City of Rochester and the borough of Chatham join together to form Medway District Council.

In 1998, Gillingham Borough Council joined to create today's unitary Medway Council – completely separate from KCC.

It oversees all services for Medway residents, from education, highways, planning and public health, to waste and recycling.

In Kent, these are instead split between KCC and the district and borough councils.

KCC looks after services including schools, social care, public health, community safety and transport.

District and borough councils are responsible for services such as planning applications, rubbish collection and housing.

Supporters of unitary authorities question this two-tier system.

They point out the diversity of the county with its industrial heartlands and rural hideaways, bustling coastlines and remote marshlands, interwoven with varying needs, cultures and demographics. They state that a unitary authority would be much better placed to deal with these needs at a local level.

Conservative Canterbury councillor Simon Cook, who has in the past called for a discussion on unitary authorities, said Kent was too big to have one county council serving it.

"It's a huge administrative area," he said.

"At the moment there is a group of councillors at county level responsible for some things, and another group [at district] responsible for others.

"Take roundabouts: Canterbury City Council is responsible for the upkeep, cutting the grass, but KCC is responsible for the kerb.

"If we were starting afresh there would be one council for an area responsible for everything.

"People say we're arguing about the philosophies of government at a time when there are more important things to be thinking about,



CITY HALL: KCC argues its size makes it easier to work alongside organisations such as Kent Police and to fight for resources for all of the county

like budgets, but actually this is the easiest way of saving money.

"There is an awful lot of duplication and time wasted with councillors travelling to Maidstone and then back to their area. There is also a lot of potential for conflicts.

"It would save money and it would reduce conflict having one council. We would have people closer to the communities they serve, instead of having 80 councillors responsible for more than one million people based at County Hall in Maidstone.

"I strongly believe the closer we keep government at ground level the better."

But he stressed any fight to become a unitary authority would have to come at district level.

"It needs to come from the ground up. Central government doesn't seem to be particularly keen. The local government minister made it clear that if the only way to save money is by being a unitary authority, and a council can demonstrate they have done everything else, they can move to be unitary – but that's it.

"And obviously KCC isn't going to call for its

own abolishment. People working at county council level will think we're saying KCC isn't working and take it as criticism they're not doing a good job.

"That's not what I'm saying – it's not something that can be made to work. I don't think they do a bad job under the circumstances.

"But they would see themselves voting for their own abolition.

"It wouldn't mean KCC councillors can't be unitary councillors – they're used to dealing with things like education and highways."

He said there needed to be discussions.

Unlike the Green Party, however, he is thinking of a different type of unitary set-up.

"We could argue forever about how it would be split, but I thought perhaps some sort of east Kent council, west Kent and north Kent. I mean, this is something written on the back of an envelope so not a detailed plan – but it's an idea."

The Greens, however, are determined to see it through, with their plans forming part of their manifesto for the 2015 council elections.

Green Party councillor for Thanet, Ian Driver, said: "In east Kent, many of the district councils are already working closely together. They have successfully shared housing, human resources, IT, revenues, benefits and audit services for several years, so why not include KCC services as well?"

He called for elections using proportional representation to give smaller parties and independent candidates more chance of being elected.

He added: "The new councils should be managed by committee systems to prevent power being concentrated into the hands of a tiny handful of cabinet members and they should be underpinned, and supported, by a strong system of parish and town councils which will ensure community accountability."

Critics of unitary authorities argue that smaller councils such as these lack the political clout needed in Westminster to attract opportunities such as funding.

And it can't be denied that KCC has done well doing just that – securing millions of pounds of Regional Growth Fund money as well as successfully lobbying the government to have Enterprise Zone status awarded to the Discovery Park to lessen the economic impact of Pfizer's exit from Sandwich in 2011.

But Canterbury's Simon Cook said it wasn't size which leads to clout in Whitehall.

He pointed to Berkshire, which is governed by six unitary authorities.

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CHANGE: Kent Green Party chairman and prospective parliamentary candidate Stuart Jeffery and Thanet Green Party councillor Ian Driver

« PAGE 15

"If you look at Windsor and Maidenhead, they are not much bigger than a district.

"They do very well. They are very proactive at pushing themselves and I think you make your own clout to a degree."

KCC declined an offer to comment but speaking about the matter to KoS last year, the authority argued that it represented the interests of people over a wide area, making it easier to work alongside organisations such as Kent Police and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

A spokesman said this meant being able to fight for large-scale resources, such as national and European funding, to service the whole county.

Cllr Cook added: "The final step will be a difficult one. But just be-

cause this is difficult shouldn't mean we shouldn't do it.

"It's a big step into the unknown. This isn't something that's going to happen in the next few years but more likely 10 to 15."

The question is, do people actually care who fixes their roads, empties their bins or oversees education if everything is running smoothly?

The answer is probably no.

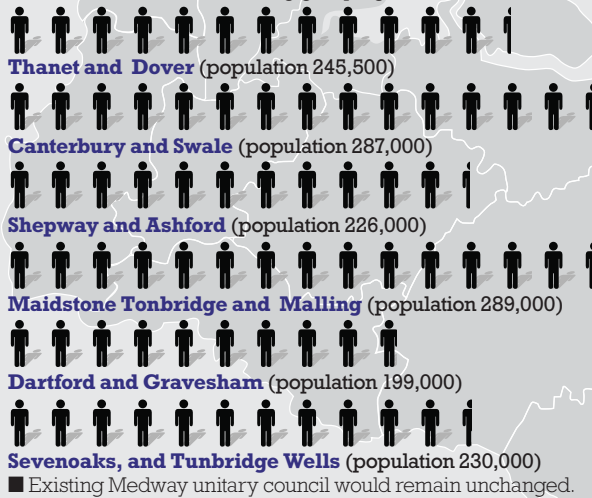
But things don't always run smoothly and there is often confusion as to who does what.

The big driver, in a county recovering from a huge financial knock, will be whether it could save those all important pennies.

■ **What do you think? Should KCC be scrapped? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth TN25 6SS or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.**

GREEN PARTY'S UNITARY PLANS...

The Green Party is calling for the abolition of Kent County Council and its replacement by six unitary councils based on the following groupings:



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20,000
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The county's current system

KENT has a two-tier system of government involving a county council, then district, borough or city councils.

Kent County Council is responsible for services including education, transport, social care and trading standards. As a consequence, its share of the council tax is always by far the biggest.

The county's district and borough councils look after rubbish collection, housing and planning applications. Its share of the council tax bill is, more often than not, rather modest.

Unitary authorities involve a one-tier system of local government which provides all the services.

Medway's council does it all

THE idea of amalgamating the Medway towns under one single local authority was put forward a number of times in the early 19th century.

But it was not until 1974 that any changes took place, when the City of Rochester, the borough of Chatham and Strood Rural District Council joined to form Medway District Council.

In 1998, Gillingham Borough Council joined and today we have a unitary authority under the name of Medway Council.

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Profile

BUILDING BRIDGES: New youth commissioner Kerry Boyd, 19, wants to be a bridge between young people and the county's police force

'For me, this is all about giving young people a voice in society'

Our new youth commissioner, 19-year-old Kerry Boyd, is not your typical teenager. **Marijke Cox** talks to her about her controversial role and being in the media spotlight...

ALITTLE over a year ago Paris Brown was unveiled, amid much fanfare, as Kent's youth commissioner.

Within days, she had quit following the discovery of misjudged comments on Twitter, and the trumpets were replaced with a blast of criticism – leaving red faces all round.

One year on, and Ann Barnes, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, this week unveiled her replacement.

Step forward Kerry Boyd, a 19-year-old from Margate with a community-minded CV, which reads more like that of someone three times her age.

Head of her local residents' association, helper at a local youth football club, Olympic torch bearer and about to embark on her a degree course on education and business studies, she

may not quite be your typical teenager.

But, right now, Mrs Barnes knows what she must have above all else is a safe pair of hands and a one-year term which delivers nothing but good headlines.

While the scars of the Paris Brown debacle are healing, Mrs Barnes knows sections of the national media will be eager to see a repeat of last year's farce – as would, you imagine, her political opponents.

And, were negativity to consume this appointment, Mrs Barnes would likely find her position untenable.

The Twitter comments which seemed to suggest racist and homophobic views, as well as under-age drinking, were revealed in the Mail on Sunday.

A tearful Paris was forced to step

down, while Mrs Barnes faced questions as to exactly why she had exposed a naive 17-year-old to the relentless hounds of the tabloid press.

Many pointed the finger not at Miss Brown, but at the PCC for failing to protect the Sheerness youngster.

The question as to why her social networking sites had not been checked beforehand was also raised, something Mrs Barnes blamed on the police's recruitment process for that level of post.

It will surprise few that Kerry Boyd's personal Twitter account is restricted only to those she selects.

Critics called for the youth commissioner role – aimed at bridging the gap between young people and the police – to be shelved altogether, while a determined PCC refused to let it die.

A former Hartsdown Academy stu-

dent in Margate, Kerry seems to fit the bill.

In a far cry from the tour of the TV studios which followed Paris Brown's appointment, this week reporters were given strict 10 minute, carefully monitored, interview slots.

Oh, and there was to be absolutely no mention of Paris Brown to her. It is, and almost inevitably will be during her one-year term of office, the elephant in the room.

Mrs Barnes insisted Miss Boyd "thinks like young people in Kent".

But it's the youngsters on the fringes of society who are most likely in need of bridging that gap with police; and it remains to be seen quite how relations there will be aided by what is a very mature university student.



COMMISSIONERS: Ann Barnes and Kerry Boyd. Mrs Barnes received much criticism over the appointment of the previous youth commissioner

« PAGE 19

She's certainly a far cry from Paris Brown who seemed a more typical teenager with whom youngsters could relate.

"My plan is to go out and see as many people in the county as possible," Miss Boyd told KoS this week, "and grow an exceptionally large pair of ears in order to take on board, and listen to, the issues of young people, which is going to be a hard task in itself.

"I've grown up in Kent, I worked in a Kent school, I'm chairman of my local residents' association, so I've gained a lot of experience which I hope will contribute to helping me make a good job of it.

"I see it as a key way of making young people empowered and valued. It isn't just a step forward in the police but also a step forward in society.

"There is a disconnect between young people and the police, but that's because they might feel a bit scared of the police because they're not familiar with them, and so they don't trust them.

"By having the police force make that little bit of effort to have a conversation with them in the street, or in the park, or doing visits to schools or youth clubs, they will become familiar with a person in uniform and therefore trust them."

She stressed she was excited about meeting the "wide scope" of people in Kent.

Miss Boyd, a fan of Chelsea FC and a keen runner, seems unfazed by the role or the fact it is now more high profile than ever due to last year's problems.

"It is a high profile role but I see it as

a job, I'm not too fussed about the media, I'd rather get the job done," she said.

"I'm nervous but also excited. I think it's good to be nervous. You feel like you need to be good at your job – if I found it really comfortable I probably wouldn't be doing a very good job."

A student at Canterbury Christ Church University, she is taking a gap year from her degree in education studies and business studies to take up the £15,000 salaried role.

After a year, Mrs Barnes will appoint another young commissioner

Funding for the role comes from Mrs Barnes' salary.

But until then, Miss Boyd is determined to make her mark.

"For me this is all about giving young people a voice in society and finding out what the younger generation want from the police and wider agencies," she said.

"Like the commissioner I will always be out and about in local communities."

Miss Boyd will start the post part-time until she finishes her induction

“ My plan is to go out and see as many people in the county as possible and grow an exceptionally large pair of ears in order to listen to young people... ”

Kerry Boyd, on how she sees her role as Kent's Youth Commissioner

and will start full-time next month. She has had to keep the appointment secret for almost three months.

PCC Ann Barnes admitted the appointment had been "long-winded" but stressed she wanted Miss Boyd to finish her studies before taking her gap year.

The process has, unsurprisingly, taken a while.

After last year's saga, Mrs Barnes commissioned an independent report looking into the matter, which found the recruitment process of Paris Brown was "robust and transparent".

A parliamentary report into PCCs, however, branded it a "fiasco".

Some appealed to Mrs Barnes to ditch the idea of a youth tsar but she remained steadfast she would push ahead with her manifesto pledge.

The application process opened later in the year and interviews were held in December.

She said social networking sites would be checked rigorously.

Some 46 people applied for the post – a drop from the 64 in the previous round – and this was whittled down to five.

But just last month, Mrs Barnes was quizzed by Rochester and Strood MP Mark Reckless – who had previously been critical of the role – in his position on the home affairs select committee over the delay.

He questioned why the process was taking so long, particularly since interviews were held in December.

She stressed it had taken some time to negotiate a start date.

Mrs Barnes says she has received a positive response about the new appointment and denied there were lots

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WHO IS THE NEW YOUTH COMMISSIONER... AND JUST WHAT IS THEIR ROLE?

A FORMER Hartsdown Academy student, Kerry Boyd attended the school from 2005 to 2012.

Head girl in Year 11 and 'head student of college' when she was in the sixth form, as a youngster she was already making good impressions.

After leaving to study at Canterbury Christ Church University, the 19-year-old worked part-time in the academy's PE department.

Miss Boyd is chair of her local residents' association and was a London 2012 Olympic torch bearer – nominated by her father for her community work.

In her spare time, the Chelsea fan is a keen runner.

Hartsdown Academy head of school, Tony Davies, said: "Students

and staff wish Kerry every success in her new and important role working with young people across Kent.

"Kerry is a confident and assured young woman, who acquits herself well with enthusiasm and dedication.

"She is a good listener and worked effectively as a mentor to younger students, as well as a responsible and thoughtful liaison between staff and the student body.

"She was always ready to help out and took a prominent role in many of the charity events at college, as well as offering her support to the Friends of Hartsdown organisation.

"We are sure that she will be an excellent ambassador for the young people of Kent and we look forward to welcoming her to Hartsdown during her time in her new role."



IN HER manifesto ahead of her election as Police and Crime Commissioner in November 2012, Ann Barnes promised to introduce the role of a youth commissioner to work alongside her.

The person would be in place to bridge the gap between young people and the police, a relationship which can often seem strained.

The youth commissioner would have a year-long term and be paid £15,000 a year.

At the end of their term, a new young person would be appointed to the role.

Mrs Barnes said the role will be a vital link between policing and young people, with the job involving educating and deterring young people from committing crime, and promoting keeping safe online.

The youth commissioner will also work with primary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities, to deliver educational packages on wider issues such as knife crime, drugs, how to stay safe, as well as helping to decide policing priorities.

of people against the youth commissioner scheme.

"There haven't been that many critics – what we have had is people being a lot more vocal, but there are far more people who are appreciative of what I'm trying to do," she said.

"If you look at my Twitter account it's amazing how many people have come out and said 'great, so pleased you're still doing this'. I do a really comprehensive community engagement programme and



CONTROVERSY:
Paris Brown

virtually everybody I speak to says this is necessary.

"It's a genuine attempt to build bridges with young people and I'm very pleased that Kerry's accepted this job."

Mrs Barnes said Miss Boyd was "strong-minded" and would make a difference.

"She's got a great community spirit and a real zest for life," she said.

"She's one of life's doers. My gran used to say to me you're ei-

ther a doer or a taker. I do like doers, they get on and make things happen

“ She's one of life's doers. My gran used to say to me you're either a doer or a taker. I like doers, they make things happen in their communities ”

PCC Ann Barnes, speaking after her appointment of Kerry Boyd

and make a difference in their communities.

"She's the youngest chair of her residents' association – this is a group of people who are my age, younger and older, who actually vote Kerry in as their chairperson every year.

"She's really part of the community, she's worked hard at her school and I'm pleased she's taken on this job. She's a young person, she looks like the young people of Kent, she sounds like the young people of Kent, she thinks like the young people of Kent.

"It was important for me to have an ordinary person. I'm an ordinary person as police and crime commissioner and I wanted the same in my youth commissioner.

"Someone young people could relate to, someone they could follow on Twitter, exchange confidences and experiences on Facebook, and who is of that generation."

Mrs Barnes said she wanted one person to do the role rather than a group.

"I don't need a group because we have the youth parliament in Kent and in Medway, we have lots of other groups. What I want is one person from my office who can get into all of those organisations; not instead of them, complementing them."

She added: "Kerry's started, let's watch this space."

After what happened last year, that is exactly what people will be doing.

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Tourist numbers are up – despite the constant rain

IT WOULD, perhaps, be easy to assume that with everything else being washed away over the record-breaking wet winter months, the profits of the county's major tourist attractions would be high on the list of casualties too.

Yet, remarkably, it would appear the non-stop downpours have done little to put us off getting out and about, with many venues recording higher figures than this time last year.

And it appears the mild winter weather – which, so far, has not brought with it any of the heavy snow, or ice, which can disrupt journeys and force venues to shut – could be the reason why.

English Heritage, for example, handles a host of major sites – among them the likes of Dover Castle.

Given its cliff-top setting, it was unlikely ever to be the victim of flood wa-

ter and instead it is visitors who have flooded through its historic gates.

"Although wetter, the fact that the weather has been milder has meant that we have had no closed days due to snow, unlike last year," explains Neil McCollum, acting historic properties director for English Heritage in the south east.

"As always, we had a bumper week-end between Christmas and New Year and our January trading was very good. February half-term too, proved solid with more than 8,000 visitors coming to one of our special events.

"While we always expect seasonal variations in visitor numbers, our other Kent properties including Walmer and Deal castles, Richborough Roman Fort, St Augustine's Abbey and Lullington Roman Villa have exceeded expectations over the winter."

What's more, the appetite for

displays at the Turner Contemporary in Margate shows no sign of slowing either.

A spokesman for the art gallery, sat in the full glare of the elements on the seafront, said: "Despite the poor weath-

“ We have surpassed forecast visitor numbers for November 2013 and January 2014. February half-term saw a 12 per cent increase on last year's period ”

Turner Contemporary,
Margate



er conditions, we have maintained a high visitor attendance. Since October 2013 until present, visitor numbers have remained high with only December seeing a drop in figures.

"We have surpassed forecast visitor numbers for November 2013 and January 2014. February half-term was extremely busy at the gallery with a 12 per cent increase on last year's February half-term period."

For those outdoor attractions, perhaps more reliant on good weath-

er, the impact of the rain has failed to put them off their stride.

"Despite the poor weather this winter, things are looking bright at Port Lympne and Howletts wild animal parks," explains a spokesman for the popular conservation-led venues.

During the February half-term, Port Lympne enjoyed its highest visitor numbers for the past four years.

But it admits the weather may well cause a dent in overall figures.

The spokesman added: "It is difficult

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record numbers through their doors, writes **Chris Murphy**



VISITORS: Attractions including Dover Castle, Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks and Sissinghurst Castle have seen tourist numbers up on last year's levels. The fact it hasn't snowed may well be behind the rise

to provide statistical information, or analysis, at present as visitor numbers are incredibly reliant on the weather."

The National Trust has several properties in Kent – among them the like of Sissinghurst Castle, Scotney Castle and Chartwell.

But a spokesman said they appear to have escaped relatively unscathed. She added: "Some properties were closed for the season during the worst

of the weather and those that were open suffered little damage. There were no delays to openings and no worries for visitors."

She said some properties around the rest of the UK did receive some storm damage, but added "fortunately none are in Kent".

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is more than familiar with stormy waters. Shut for the winter period between December and January, it only re-opened for the 2014 season on Feb-

ruary 15 – and visitor numbers have rocketed.

A spokesman added: "We have so far received a 160 per cent increase in visitor numbers on last year, so a very good start to the season, despite the weather."

"The general awareness and reputation of the dockyard has grown so much in the last few years and has people coming to visit, whatever the weather. We have so many indoor attractions you can visit, which helps."

Our treasured artefacts and relics are safe from weather

SOME of the county's most treasured artefacts are as safe as they can be from flooding, according to museums and historic venues reviewing their facilities following the recent stormy conditions.

Rob Woodside, head of conservation for National Trust properties in the south east, said they are well prepared.

He told us: "We feel our sites in Kent are not currently at risk and have not been badly affected by recent floods, but we continue to work with the Environment Agency and the local authorities to consider future flood management."

"We have undertaken flood risk assessments at all our properties and each has its own emergency plans in place."

English Heritage has an 'integrated emergency plan' for each site and in the event of flood, fire or other major disaster, it sets out what steps need to be taken and in what order – including what to do with collections in those sites which have them.

It comes after a warning that some museums, galleries and other important properties in Kent could be at future risk.

Expert movers Crown Fine Art has compiled some major advice for those running these facilities.

The company's client relationship manager Michael Festenstein said: "The recent rains are a reminder that having an up-to-date contingency plan is extremely important and we are increasingly finding clients see us as an extra 'emergency service' to move pieces quickly, safely and securely."

Tunbridge Wells museum houses more than 7,000 items of clothing, along with 28,000 natural history specimens.

Jane March, cabinet member with responsibility for tourism, leisure and economic development, said: "We have a regularly updated emergency plan which was last readied for our reopening in October 2013, following the refurbishment works."

"Having an emergency plan is also a requirement for the national accreditation scheme for museums. With the recent weather conditions, the museum and art gallery has been fortunate to not be affected by flooding."

And Canterbury City Council said it has an emergency criteria for all its museums/galleries "in place to be used in the event of flood, fire or other disaster. It is part of the national Arts Council accredited standard which has been attained for each museum".

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Built on a wing and a prayer, the 'disposable' fighter plane returns

Designed to combat Zeppelins during the Great War, **Chris Britcher** looks at how the Eastchurch Kitten is re-born

ARARE fighter plane dating back to the First World War is set for a remarkable return to the runway again next month after a restoration project first initiated 30 years ago.

The Eastchurch Kitten was originally built on the Isle of Grain. But only three prototypes of what was designed as a 'one-use' aircraft were ever built back in 1917.

Now, however, a team at the Yorkshire Air Museum has brought the forgotten aeroplane back to life.

Explains a spokesman: "It is indeed something of a rarity.

"It is the construction from a very faded and sketchy print of plans of a hardly known First World War fighter, which would almost have disappeared from history had not an attempt been made in the early 1980s to essentially build one from scratch.

"However, this effort stalled and what existed in the shape of an incomplete fuselage, came to the museum in 1987.

"It has lain in store, awaiting its turn, in a long line of aircraft restoration projects until spring 2011, when the green light was given to the museum aircraft engineering team to commence the re-build."

The concept behind the Eastchurch Kitten was for a high-altitude fighter to tackle the threat posed by the Zeppelin airships, which had brought the war to our shores with bombing raids in 1915.

The Zeppelins were rigid airships used as passenger craft before the war, before being used for scouting missions and bombing raids over the UK. It is believed they were responsible for the death of some 500 civilians.

The Eastchurch Kitten was to tackle them head-on. It was designed to be launched from platforms on battleships, cruisers or even torpedo boats.

Adds the museum spokesman: "It was to be a disposable, one operation aircraft, to simply go up, intercept and shoot down the airship, then ditch in the sea.

"In 1917, the Royal Naval Air Service

“It was to be a disposable, one operation aircraft, to simply go up, intercept and shoot down the airship, then ditch in the sea”

Spokesman,
Yorkshire Air Museum

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Experimental Construction Depot at Port Victoria (Isle of Grain) produced two concepts, the PV 7 'Grain' Kitten and the PV 8 'Eastchurch' Kitten.

"The latter proved to be the better and made its first flight on September 1, 1917, but was found to be unstable, leading to redesign of the horizontal tail surfaces, elevator and tailplane.

"The alterations made the PV 8 a pleasant aeroplane to fly and it performed better than the PV 7.

"However, the 35hp Gnat engine was unreliable and the aircraft would have benefited from a more powerful engine and might have been a practical anti-airship weapon.

"But by this time the threat of the airships had receded and the project was deemed unviable."

There was, however, some interest in the project from the US. Aircraft designer James Martin expressed an interest and it was arranged for the PV 8 to be packed up and shipped in March 1918.

However, that's where the story ends, as it is not known whether the journey was ever made.

Its ability to fascinate aviation enthusiasts, however, has not dimmed. And with the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War being marked this year, its return is well timed.

Adds the museum spokesman: "The story of the aircraft and its restoration is now very significant, encapsulating this fascinating piece of aviation history.

"The project received a major boost during the summer of 2012, when two young French aviation design students undertaking a placement here at the museum, were able to assist the project leader Ray McElwain, and made many of the wing struts and other parts, like cable brackets.

"Since then, the framework has been covered in Irish linen, tautened with dope and painted in the original specification for a Royal Naval Air Service craft.

"We have sourced a similar twin cylinder air cooled engine and refitted all the controls so that this 97-year-old design is once again live."

However, don't expect to see the plane taking to the skies.

The rebuilt aircraft will be non-flying but will be motoring along the runway in time for the centenary celebrations taking place at the museum.

It will line up alongside other First World War fighters, including the 1914 BE2 and the 1917 SE5a.

The first planned running of the Kitten will be on Sunday, April 6, during the first of the museum's 2014 Thunder Day engine running shows.

It is also planned for the Kitten and BE2 to be exhibited in the centre of Leeds, for the region's Great War centenary commemorations.



CLAWS: The Eastchurch Kitten was rebuilt from old plans by the Yorkshire Air Museum's aircraft engineering team

STRATEGIC RAIDS



ALTHOUGH bombing raids were not as prevalent as they were during the Second World War, the use of aircraft and Zeppelins to hit UK civilian sites was a key strategic move by the Germans to both damage morale at home, and divert forces from the Western Front.

Starting in January, 1915, it is thought just over 50 raids took place – primarily through the use of Zeppelin airships.

However, due to the height at which they flew and poor conditions, accuracy was said to be poor, which made the damage caused by the bombs indiscriminate. It is even claimed one bomb intended for London actually struck Hull instead.

They would eventually be phased out and replaced by aircraft.

The loss of civilian life during the raids was significant. Some 557 are believed to have been killed and a further 1,358 injured.

Perhaps the most infamous raid on Kent was on May 25, 1917, in Folkestone.

With retreating enemy craft off-loading their remaining munitions before heading across the Channel, bombs fell on the town, most notably on Tontine Street – then a busy market area packed with shoppers.

When the dust settled from the carnage caused, some 72 were killed – among them 25 children. A further 86 were injured.

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STUNNING architecture is all too often taken for granted, but the search is back on to find the very finest examples of contemporary design in the county.

The Kent Design & Development Awards have been running since 2003, and aim to raise attention to the stand out buildings being created.

In 2012, the winner was Rocksalt, the critically-acclaimed restaurant run by chef Mark Sargeant on Folkestone seafront and designed by Hythe-based Guy Holloway Architects. It was the commercial, industrial and retail category winner, before going on to win the overall project of the year prize.

Now organisers of the event, which takes place every two years, are appealing for nominations for the 2014 awards.

The event is jointly organised and sponsored by DHA Planning, Kent County Council, and Tunbridge Wells-based marketing agency Maxim.

The purpose of the awards is to celebrate the county's property and construction industry.

Alex Hicken, director at DHA Planning, based in Maidstone, said: "There are a lot of exciting development projects coming forward across the length and breadth of Kent, and we are confident we will exceed last time's 94 entries and break the 100 mark for the 2014 awards."

Mark Dance, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Kent County Council, added: "Given the current economic improvement, and the fact the county's property industry is showing positive signs of reawakening, there is a lot to celebrate in Kent."



WINNER: Rocksalt, the restaurant run by chef Mark Sargeant on Folkestone seafront

Other winners last year included Dover Esplanade by Tonkin Liu; Hadlow College's rural regeneration centre by Eurobuild; Rosemary Gardens in Park Wood, Maidstone, by Golding Homes; Hill House, in Ulcombe, by Hampson Williams; the Turner Contemporary by David Chipperfield Architects; and Walderslade Primary School by Clay Architecture (see box).

Andrew Metcalf of Maxim said: "Having launched in 2003, the awards highlight the wealth of good architecture to be found in the county, as well as the designers and developers behind these projects."

"Winning an industry award can significantly enhance a company's marketing and reputation. It can also stimulate new sales, enhance relations with existing customers, and boost morale in both the team and the wider area."

■ **To nominate, visit the website kentdesigndevelopmentawards.co.uk. The deadline is June 16.**



RECOGNISED: (From above to top) Dover Esplanade; Rosemary Gardens, Park Wood, Maidstone; Hadlow College; and the Turner Contemporary, Margate, Kent.

2012 WINNERS

Commercial, Industrial and Retail:
Rocksalt Restaurant, Folkestone
 Public Buildings Education:
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
 Civils and Infrastructure:
Dover Esplanade, sea frontage
 Environmental Performance:
Hadlow College
 Minor Residential:
Hill House, Ulcombe
 Major Residential:
Rosemary Gardens, Park Wood, Maidstone
 Public Buildings, Community:
Turner Contemporary
 Public Buildings, Education:
Walderslade Primary School
 Project of the Year:
Rocksalt Restaurant, Folkestone

2014 CATEGORIES

- Civils and Infrastructure
- Commercial, Industrial and Retail
- Environmental Performance
- Public Buildings – education and community
- Residential – major and minor
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For more information about Britelite, visit www.britelitewindows.co.uk.

■ **Terms and conditions:** Tickets are provided on a first-come-first-served basis. Four tickets per household. Each ticket provides one day's entry. No duplicate tickets will be issued to replace lost or stolen tickets. Tickets cannot be transferred, exchanged, refunded or returned. Ticket claim line closes on Tuesday, March 11, at 2.30pm. Tickets after this time will not be issued.

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Ben Elton on love, pride, hope and his hit musical

TONIGHT'S The Night, the smash-hit musical comedy inspired by the songs of Rod Stewart, has just embarked on a UK tour that includes two dates in Kent.

The production develops what was put together as a "musical compilation" by Ben Elton.

Elton's career has spanned plays, novels and a feature film, in addition to 30 years as one of the most successful comic writers and performers on the British television and stand-up circuit.

However, he has always reserved a special place in his heart for musicals, having written three that feature music from such diverse talents as Andrew Lloyd Webber, Queen and, of course, Rod Stewart, with Tonight's The Night making its West End premiere in 2003.

Here, Elton talks about popular songbooks, his love of the stage and why jukebox musicals deserve a far better rap than they sometimes receive...

“ It's been over a decade now since Tonight's The Night played the West End. What's your feeling about the show as you return to it in a fresh production this many years on?

I've always loved this show for the same reasons I have always loved the theatre.

It's wonderful to be a part of this community of artists who dedicate themselves to their art and backstage may be rinsing their socks out in the sink or whatever and then go out and make everybody in the audience feel like champions.

What we want to say with this show, in particular, is that there's nothing wrong with theatre being a fantastic night out that makes you feel great so you go home feeling better than you did when you arrived – that's what people are paying for and that's what the theatre can do. **”**

Continued on page 31 »



WRITE ON: Comedian and writer Ben Elton's musical Tonight's The Night made its West End premiere more than 10 years ago, in 2003

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It's probably our favourite day of the year, say the Thorley Taverns team

"MOTHER'S Day is probably our team's favourite day of the year," said Philip Thorley, operations director at Thorley Taverns.

"Our five pub restaurants have been gearing up for Mother's Day for a few weeks. It's a day when all of our customers are out having fun and celebrating with their families. It's a great atmosphere."

Each Thorley restaurant in Thanet has a brigade of chefs, many having trained locally at East Kent College.

The Pegwell Bay Hotel in Pegwell and The Oak Hotel overlooking the marina in Ramsgate are both offering fixed-price three-course menus.

The Charles Dickens gastro-pub in Broadstairs offers a daily-changing menu that head chef Thom Somers will decide upon after speaking to his suppliers the day before.

"Roast dinner still remains a firm favourite on a Sunday, and Mother's Day is no exception," said Thom. However, the range of dishes is great.

The Tartar Frigate in Broadstairs has a beautiful 50-seater restaurant with views over Viking Bay. Head chef Trevor Webb said: "This will be my 21st Mother's Day here at The Tartar Frigate and we are looking forward to cooking for all our customers."

In charge at the Captain Digby is Rob Bridger, who said: "Mother's Day is one of our busiest days of the year. My partner Hollie runs the front-of-house service and it will be a great day." Just book early, wherever you choose!



MAKE IT AN OCCASION TO REMEMBER: Thorley staff are excited about using all their experience to create a special day



IT'S ALL LOOKING GOOD: The Shurland Hotel on the Isle of Sheppey has recently been treated to an extensive remodelling

The Shurland... the jewel of the Isle of Sheppey and waiting for you and yours

FOLLOWING an extensive renovation programme, The Shurland Hotel is the perfect venue for Mother's Day.

The relaxed restaurant with food expertly prepared by Michelin-experienced head chef Simon Dallas, using the freshest ingredients available, makes for an excellent dining experience.

After an extensive remodelling and renovation programme late last year, The Shurland Hotel is now, the team believes, very much the jewel of the

Isle of Sheppey and the perfect venue for Mother's Day.

The professional and attentive staff will cater for your every need, ensuring that you will want to return time and time again.

In addition to the well-renowned restaurant, The Shurland also boasts The Island Gym & Spa, a state-of-the-art wellness centre complete with an extensive cardiovascular suite, weights room and spinning/boxing suite.

There is a spacious function room seating up to 120 guests, an all-new modern and contemporary bar and lounge and, of course, 16 individually-appointed guest bedrooms.

In short, The Shurland Hotel really can cater for any event, large or small.

And events really don't come bigger or better than Mother's Day... so make sure that the Shurland is a very special part of it!

Go to The Red Lion at Hernhill for a selection that really can't be beaten

THE picturesque 14th-century Red Lion is situated in the small village of Hernhill, near Faversham.

Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining or large functions, a front patio overlooking the church and village green and a well-established pub garden with many historical features.

You are invited to come and visit for the Mother's Day special.

A one-course meal is priced at £12.95, two courses at £14.95 and

three courses at £17.95.

To start, you could have soup of the day, deep-fried whitebait with a tartare sauce to dip, pork-belly bites, classic prawn cocktail or melon with sorbet and raspberry caulis.

Choices for mains include roast beef, lamb or pork with all the trimmings, Mediterranean vegetable lasagne, chicken breast stuffed with bacon and Brie with a mushroom sauce, salmon fillet topped with a spinach and caper butter, sweet

potato and spinach curry and ham from the smoker with egg and chips.

Finally, dessert could be bread and butter pudding, chocolate fudge cake, pecan pie, apple crumble, crème brûlée, waffles and ice-cream. Banff pie or a Kentish-cheese selection (£1.50 supplement).

A discretionary service charge of 10 per cent will be added to parties of 10 or more. Should you have any dietary requirements, please do say.

This will be a day to remember!



WHAT A CHOICE! The Red Lion at Hernhill offers a top selection of food that will surely leave no one disappointed on the big day



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30 Week ending March 9, 2014

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This Mother's Day, steam across the picturesque Romney Marsh and

enjoy the special celebration first-class package.

Included is a seat in one of the Heritage carriages aboard either the 11.10am or 12.10pm departures from Hythe to New Romney, plus a RomneyRover ticket to travel as you wish for the remainder of the day.

You can have a two-course roast lunch at New Romney or a high tea at Dungeness.

Treat Mum to a Footplate Ride (£40 per person and must be

pre-booked), or join in with the complimentary Drive a Train sessions available throughout the day at New Romney station.

For further details, including ticket prices, or to book your seats online, visit www.rhdr.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can phone the friendly sales team on 01797 362353 or email info@rhdr.org.uk.

For a Mother's Day not to forget, the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway is a first-class choice.

kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk

« Continued from page 29

“ In fact, you were exposed to the theatre as a youngster before you were ever exposed to Rod Stewart.

ABSOLUTELY. I played the Artful Dodger [in Oliver!] twice as a kid and my first real musical-theatre experience came when I was about 12 or so and was taken as the guest of a school friend to see Grease at the Dominion Theatre, where [Elton's Queen musical] We Will Rock You is playing now.

I love musical theatre and always have done, whereas it took some time in my own life before I started going to gigs the way my own children [14-year-old twins and a 12-year-old] do now.

Going to gigs then was nothing as prevalent as it is now. I don't think I went to any until I got to Manchester University and saw Talking Heads and Dire Straits

“ What was the impetus behind a show that tethers an original story by you to the extant Rod Stewart songbook?

WELL, let's face it, it's difficult to think of anybody more famous in the world of pop music than Rod Stewart.

There may be people as famous, like Bono and Paul McCartney, but there aren't many out there who can surpass what Rod has achieved.

And what's great is that when you listen to Rod's music and then look at his life, he always seems so fabulously good-humoured as well, so I thought what would work might

be a story that brought to the stage his grace and good humour and something of his devilish side, while also recognising the fact he sings about heartache as well as anyone ever has.

“ Your script for Tonight's The Night involves Satan, a so-called 'soul swap' and a geeky young mechanic from Detroit who is none-too-accidentally called Stuart. How did the idea for the story come to you?

I SPENT a week listening to Rod's music intensively, which of course was no hardship at all, and as I listened and listened and listened I tried to identify the overriding spirit of the songs, which were all about love and good times and winning and losing girls, and all the things that quite frankly make for good stories.

So I sat down and tried to think of something that would do justice to Rod's own gift for storytelling and came up with a story that reminds us of that thing we're always being told over and over again in drama – “to thine own self be true”.

“ How does a quote from Hamlet apply to Tonight's The Night?

OUR show is really about a shy kid in Stuart who wishes that he could be like Rod and gets his chance, only then to discover that only Rod can be like Rod but that what Stuart can be is himself.

The point is that you'll do better in life if you try to build on your own strength and personality rather than

being jealous and wishing you were somebody else – that's to say, nobody but Rod can be Rod, just as nobody but you can be you and nobody but me can be me. It's a simple story, which I think is perfect for a musical.

“ Were you worried about what Rod would think?

I FIRST sent a synopsis of the script to Arnold [Stiefel], Rod's manager and a co-producer on the show, and fortunately he loved it and said he was going to say that to Rod and hope he would love it, too.

To this day, I'm not sure whether Rod ever read the synopsis or not, but what happened was that he came to our workshop and turned to me at the end and said: “Well, you've made me a legend, haven't you!” – which was, of course, hilarious because he's been a legend all along.

“ Still, it must have been heartening to have so strong a seal of approval. Did you have an intuitive sense that his music would translate well to the musical-theatre stage?

WHAT'S great is that Rod writes songs from the heart, like Maggie May, or he will choose to cover exquisite material like The First Cut Is The Deepest, the Cat Stevens song, but they always tell the story of somebody going through some set of emotions, be they pride and joy and heartache, or from love to hate or hate to love.



Continued on page 32 » SHE'S THE VOICE: Singer Jade Ewen plays Dee Dee in Tonight's The Night



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« Continued from page 31

They're all about being a guy, really. I guess – they're guy songs – but obviously they appeal to women as well because they're written with such sensitivity and they come with emotions that concern us all, which are love, pride, hope and the dream that tomorrow will be a better day than today. ”

“ You've had success with the songbooks of Rod Stewart and, of course, Queen, with *We Will Rock You* roaring into its second decade at the Dominion Theatre on the West End. So, are there some popular singer-songwriters whom you don't think would lend themselves to this approach?

THERE are. I'm busking here as I say this, but I don't think Bob Dylan's music would necessarily work in this way. His music is too eclectic in that you can't sit down and say “What's Bob's vibe?”.

It's just too crazy.

And for my part at least, I'm just not that interested in writing the biography of someone set to their music.

I was approached to do that as regards the genius of Tina Turner, but what I prefer to do is write an original story embodying the spirit of the artist or the band.

Since *Tonight's The Night* began, jukebox musicals have continued to proliferate both sides of the Atlantic – a new one drawing on the songbook of Carole King, and entitled *Beautiful*, has just opened on Broadway.

I'm not surprised and I will argue to anyone who wants to listen that jukeboxes are not something to be ashamed of.

They are filled with memories and dreams and love and laughter and they are good, fun things – and the theatre can be good fun as well.

In my view, it's a perfectly legitimate and honourable thing to seek to entertain the public with music they love, and the fact the music is old and the story is new strikes me as no more reprehensible than attaching new music to an old story, as with *The Lion King* and *Billy Elliot*. ”

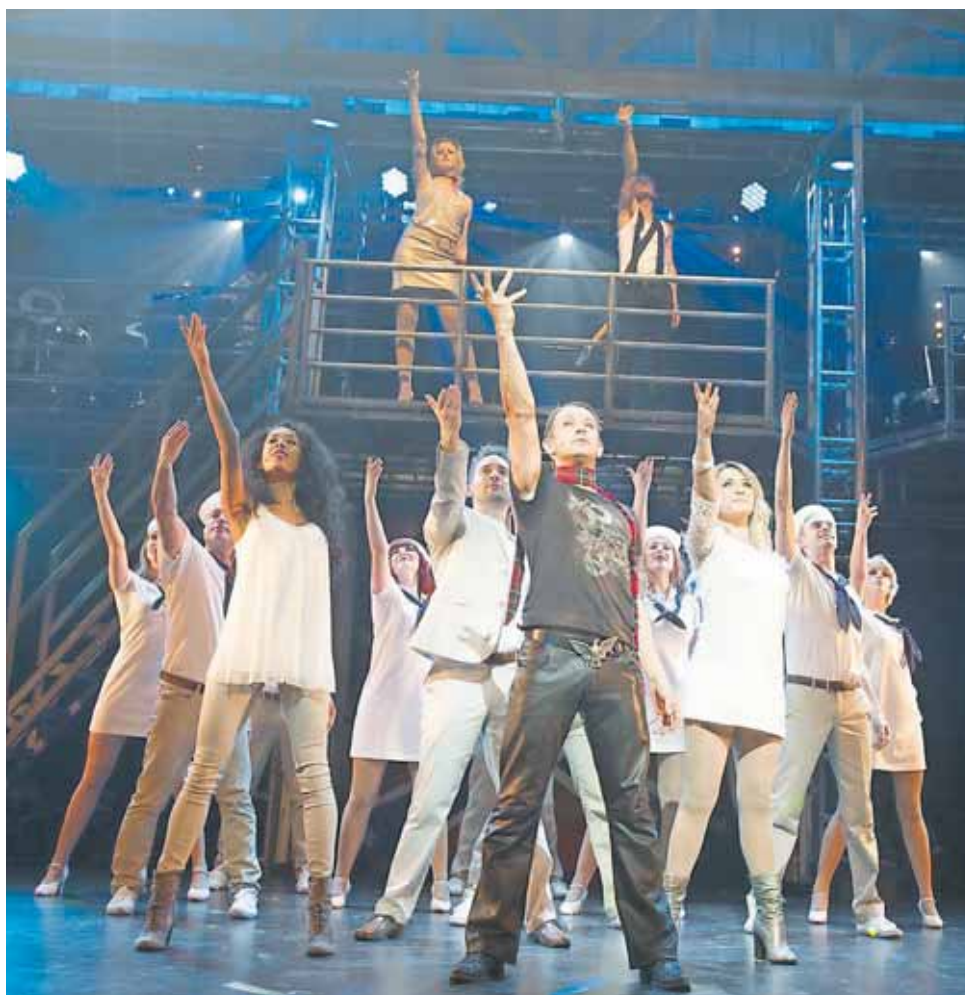
“ One last question for now: was *Tonight's The Night* always the obvious song title for your show as a whole?

NO, and the jury's still out as to whether this was the right one. Phil McIntyre, our producer, still feels it should be called *Hot Legs!* ”

■ *Tonight's The Night* plays at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from Monday to Saturday April 14-19. Tickets are priced at £15-£35 (premium seats are available). Phone the box office on 0844 871 7620 or visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley (booking fees apply).

It concludes its tour at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury, where it will run from Monday, July 28, to Saturday, August 2. Phone 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

REACH FOR THE STARS: The cast of musical *Tonight's The Night*



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Strauss's 150th anniversary celebrated at Deal concert

Three sonatas to be played at next event in chamber series

THE reputation of Deal as a select arts venue continues to soar and this month sees the next concert in the town's festival chamber series.

Maria Setiadi, the gifted Indonesian pianist, and Michael Foyle, violinist and winner of the Royal Overseas League String Competition, will be performing at 7.30pm on Friday, March 14, at Deal Town Hall.

Foyle was leader of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain from 2008-09 and has worked with many of the leading conductors and performed at major concert halls including a BBC Prom at The Royal Albert Hall.

Last year, he was appointed leader of Amadeus Orchestra and regularly performs in the London Symphony Orchestra.

Setiadi has performed as a soloist and chamber musician across the UK and south-east Asia.

She was awarded her Bachelor of Music degree with first-class honours from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, where she studied with Associate Professor Albert Tiu, and secured her

Masters degree with distinction at the Royal College of Music in London.

The audience will be treated to Beethoven's sonata in D major for piano and violin, Ravel's sonata in G major and Richard Strauss's sonata in E flat major.

Beethoven wrote his 10 violin sonatas over a period of 15 years – the duo will play the first of the 10, a sonata dedicated to the composer Antonio Salieri, once believed to have poisoned Mozart, as those familiar with the film Amadeus will be aware.

This is the 150th anniversary of Strauss's birth and a feast of his music is being performed in opera houses and concert halls worldwide.

The sonata being performed here was written in 1887 when he had fallen in love with the soprano Pauline de Ahna, whom he would later marry.

His amorous feelings can be heard throughout the piece, especially in the improvisation.

Tickets are available from the Astor theatre on 01304 370220 or at www.theastor.org. You can get more information about the concert at www.dealfestival.co.uk.



IN CONCERT: Soloist and chamber musician Maria Setiadi

Time Out Top Ten

1 The Chapel,
44/46 Albion Street
Broadstairs
Saturday, March 15

Jamie Moore and Dave Reay: Two hugely talented guitarists play this increasingly popular venue.

2 St Mary's Arts Centre,
Sandwich
Sunday, March 9
Phone: 01304 612888

Let's Do Vintage: Vintage clothes and accessories and refreshments from 11am-4pm. Entrance £1.

3 The Winter Gardens,
Margate,
Friday, June 11
Phone: 01843 292795

Jim Davidson: The comedian has added five dates to his tour... including Margate! Tickets £20.

4 Margate Main Sands
Sat and Sun, March 8-9
Phone: 01843 577577

Beach Cross: Twelve action-packed races each day on quads, motocross and SSV machines. Free viewing.

5 The Marlowe Theatre,
Canterbury
Mon, March 24-Sat, April 5
Phone: 01227 787787

Evita: Marti Pellow plays Che in this musical-theatre classic. Tickets £16.50-£40.50

6 The Churchill Theatre,
Bromley
Mon to Sat, June 16-21
Phone: 01892 530613

Rock of Ages: Ben Richards will star as rock-god Stacey Jaxx. Tickets £15-£35.

7 Leas Cliff Hall,
Folkestone
Tue, April 11, 11am and 2.30pm
Phone: 01303 228600

The Sooty Show: Direct from City, Sooty heads into Folkestone. Tickets £13 (family £42).

8 The Orchard Theatre,
Dartford
Saturday, March 22, 7.30pm
Phone: 01303 858500

Showaddywaddy: The Leicester rockers are celebrating 40 years. Tickets £19.50.

9 Theatre Royal
Margate
Saturday, April 12
Phone 01843 292795

Daniel Bye's Story Hunt: Forgotten tales from the seaside resort. Tickets £5.

10 Britannia Theatre,
Chatham
Saturday, March 15
Phone: 0844 858 6656

Drizabone Soul Family: Seven-piece soul band performing first-ever Kent show. Tickets £15.

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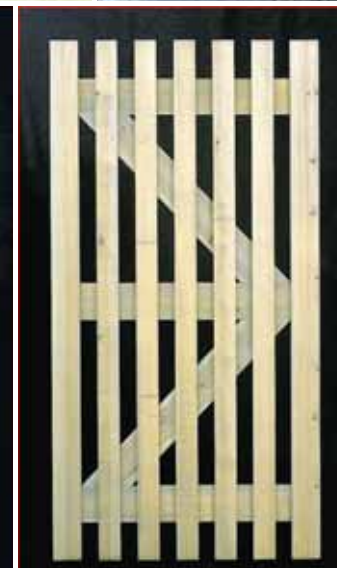
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TEAM MINNIS: Chef Jason Freedman and his colleagues have come up with a truly local and seasonal menu for this year's black-tie awards dinner

Garden of England plays huge part in chef's menu

Chef Jason Freedman talks to **Greg Miles** about the excitement and challenge of designing and cooking the menu for the prestigious Taste of Kent Awards

JASON FREEDMAN, chef patron at The Minnis, admits that it is a daunting and exciting task cooking for the county's leading food and drink producers.

Freedman has been put in charge of designing the menu for this year's Taste of Kent Awards, which is run by the not-for-profit organisation Produced in Kent.

He and his team have come up with a truly local and seasonal menu for the black-tie dinner, which takes place at the Kent Showground in Detling on Thursday, March 13.

"Team Minnis is both humbled and honoured at being invited to cater for the great and good of Kent's food and drink sector," said Freedman.

"It's great to be part of a special evening in the company of people that deserve recognition for their dedication to our industry.

"It's a scary thought that we are undertaking the cooking and service for the evening, but we are really looking forward to the challenge and embracing it.

"It is daunting, but at the same time it's quite exciting. We feel quite honoured to be doing it, really."

Given Produced in Kent's ethos and Freedman's approach to food, using ingredients from the county was always on the menu.

Following a reception of seafood

canapés with cheeses from The Cheesemakers of Canterbury and sparkling Kentish wine, the meal itself will begin with a plate of Minnis home-made curiously Kentish charcuterie, accompanied by pickles and chutneys produced from the fruits of Thanet Earth's hydroponic greenhouses.

The main dish will feature saltmarsh-grazed lamb served three ways with Kentish honey-roasted winter root vegetables and rich lamb

“It's great to be part of a special evening in the company of people deserving recognition for their dedication...”

sauce. For vegetarians there will be antipasti of baba ganouche houmus with roasted marinated vegetables followed by textures of Thanet Earth tomatoes.

The four-play of Kentish desserts will include foraged rosehips and crab apples and Kentish pears poached in Kentish cider.

"We are trying to do it seasonally and locally. We have got to get the right balance," said Freedman. "We do all our own charcuterie in-house, so including that was a no-brainer,

really. That had to be the starter.

"For the main course we are using a lot of lamb. We wanted to showcase a few different ways of doing it. We have got the local vegetables in there as well. There is some foraged ingredients, too, with rosehips and crab apples."

Going local has become an increasingly popular trend, but for Freedman and his Birchington restaurant it made sense to switch years ago.

"We went local about seven or eight years ago. We still import a few things," he said.

"I don't see the point of buying food in from a million miles away when you get it on your doorstep in the Garden of England.

"It's about making sure you let the produce speak for itself and let the flavours work, and don't overcomplicate things.

"When you go back 100 years, everybody was eating local because there were no fridges to keep things fresh."

"In this corner of England, we chefs are blessed with some of the best ingredients available in the country and it's our job to do them justice and let their flavours sing out."

The reception begins at 6pm. Tickets cost £78 and are available from Produced in Kent.

■ For further information, visit www.producedinkent.co.uk

Menu for Taste of Kent Awards Dinner

Canapés (seafood pots)

Plate of home-cured produce all made at The Minnis;

home-made pickles & chutneys from Thanet Earth ingredients

Trio of Kentish lamb – roasted loin, slow-braised shoulder and shepherd's pie – liver and home-cured bacon

Kentish honey-roasted winter root vegetables, rich lamb sauce

Four-play of homemade desserts

Coffee and home-made Kentish biscuits

If you really believe that you're a cut above the rest, you have to prove it

Pearson's Arms by Richard Phillips

Location: Whitstable

By Chris Thomson

QUITE how many TV appearances you need to make to officially be crowned a 'celebrity chef' is a question that will spark debate among many.

Yet since 2001, the fresh-faced Richard Phillips has established himself as perhaps the major player on the county's gourmet scene, with his appearances on the likes of Ready Steady Cook and The Lorraine Show a handy hook to hang all publicity for his ventures across Kent.

And he's certainly made an impression.

Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells has a Michelin star, his restaurant at Biddenden went pop and now his foray into the competitive restaurant market in bustling Whitstable has seen him establish the Pearson's Arms by Richard Phillips as one of its most in-demand diners.

There is, however, a problem...

Because while the food was very good, it wasn't spectacular. And while the staff were friendly, the service was sluggish. As a consequence, the all-important dining 'experience' that makes you want to come back time and again was, unfortunately, surprisingly lacking.

At least it was on a busy Saturday night, when simply making your way through the crowded bar downstairs to the steps which lead to the second floor restaurant was a task in itself.

Upstairs, the dining area was packed. All good signs.

As a consequence, expectation levels were sky-high – this is, after all, a venue that has won some of the county's top gourmet awards in recent years.

The restaurant itself is all wooden floors, wooden tables and exposed beams; a wooden oar even doubles as the bannister as you climb the stairs to the eating area.



COULD DO BETTER: Pearson's delivered an underwhelming experience

Service is sluggish from the start. The waiting staff dart back and forth – summoned by the bellow of "Service!" from the chef below – and as a consequence the gap between

ordering and eating reaches a point where you start getting irritated.

The same delay occurred during every course. Eavesdropping, the neighbouring table experienced long

delays, too. Upon checking with the waiter to see if they were particularly busy or over-stretched, he rather sniffily said that the restaurant was never quiet and this was quite a normal evening.

And therein, I fear, lies the problem.

Because although the food was of a consistently good standard – a starter of local foraged mushroom on brioche toast and with fried duck egg was a delight of subtle tastes and textures, the slow-roast pork belly for the main course a rather less overwhelming experience – the impression you get is of a venue that believes itself a cut above the rest but, let's be generous here, sometimes forgets it has to demonstrate it.

There are rival restaurants in the town offering similar quality and for far less than the £100 bill (three courses and bottle of a Prosecco) – and who don't build a tip into the bill.

Pearson's Arms is not quite yet good enough to become famous.

■ Pearson's Arms

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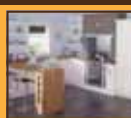
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Barnes a force to be reckoned with

IT was interesting to read your article with Ian Pointon (KoS 02/03) and in particular his changing views on Ann Barnes.

I too was less than convinced she was necessary at first, but her profile and accessibility has been impressive.

Even though I voted for a rival candidate in the election, I do feel as though she has – youth commissioner debacle excluded – been a force for progress.

K Evans, Sittingbourne

Commissioner is just out of touch

READING last week's profile interview with Kent Police Federation chief Ian Pointon, I feel taking on a police commissioner like Ann Barnes was a total waste of time and public money.

She is totally out of touch with the real world; all she keeps crowing on about is how crime is down in our area of Kent. What a joke.

Every day in the media somebody is being murdered, raped, assaulted or whatever. It's about time they put proper police officers back on the streets like they used to.

Back in the 1960s we had two officers in the old town area of Dover who used to rule the roost and everybody respected them.

Ian Pointon should be coming down hard on this government and fighting to bring back the real officers on the street and make all the PCSOs into proper policemen.

Listen to what the public wants, not people like police commissioners.

LV Kerry, via email

Ukip MEPs riding the EU gravy train

NIGEL Farage claimed at his party conference last week that Ukip MEPs cannot change a thing in Europe.

But this is only true because Ukip MEPs hardly ever bother to turn up to vote or table amendments to EU legislation.

In fact, Nigel Farage and his deputy, Paul Nuttall, have attended less than half of all votes while four Ukip MEPs have not tabled a single amendment since July 2009.

Contrast this with Lib Dem MEPs who – with a similar-sized delegation – have helped to deliver a £30 billion cut to the EU budget, exempt small businesses from burdensome accounting rules and slash the cost of mobile phone roaming charges in the EU by 80 per cent.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Candid remarks put police in a new light

I SUSPECT the reputation of the police is something which could comfortably fill your newspaper with argument and counter argument.

However, I do feel that while it is easy to allow the scandals of shortcomings exposed in both the 'Plebgate' and Stephen Lawrence cases to tarnish the force, it would be grossly unfair.

While I do not think for one moment the police on the street are not prone to the same diversity of views and opinions on sectors of society and attitudes as the rest of us, they are, for the most part, fair.

We cannot, I believe, expect

perfect behaviour in every police officer. Or, for that matter, for there to be a definitive 'right' or 'wrong' way to behave in some extreme circumstances.

However, we should expect a consistently high level where fairness and tolerance lies at its heart.

I do not believe the police in this country have always been like that, but I believe they aspire to be that today and, as a consequence, we should be grateful.

I thought Ian Pointon came across well and the article provided an interesting insight into the challenges they face.

H Young, Tonbridge

This shows that when MEPs are active and engaged, they can help change Europe for the better.

If Farage really wants the best for Britain, maybe he should turn up to work. It's the least he can do to earn the generous pay and expenses package that he criticises, but happily pockets every week.

Antony Hook, MEP candidate, Liberal Democrat

Pupils hit hardest by school closure

THE closure of the Chaucer Technology School in Canterbury (KoS

02/03) filled me with sadness.

Not only do I feel for the parents faced with the task of having to relocate their child, but also to those pupils who, just months after starting at a new school, now face the perhaps tougher process of settling into a school where they will be seen as outsiders.

That really isn't fair, is it?

L Hunter, Ramsgate

Problem is 'plain' for anyone to see

TO debate on future home insurance levels and who should pay – and

whether or not there should be any 'subsidy' on future premiums – seems to be missing the most relevant point.

I hear the deafening sound of silence from MPs with regard to one sensible course of action that should be implemented as a matter of great urgency.

Namely, I submit it is irresponsible, imbecilic and short-sighted to continue to build new properties on any land designated as a 'flood plain'.

Ian R Elliott, Whitstable

Nothing like a cricketing dame

I STRONGLY believe that Charlotte Edwards [Kent and England cricketer] should be made a dame.

She has done so much for women's cricket, and women's sport in general, it would also be an honour for the team that have done so well in the last few years, and for the other pioneers of the women's game.

I am sure if she was male she would have been knighted by now, so I have started a petition on change.org. To add your name visit <http://chn.ge/MJfE0p>.

Derek Parry, via email

Thanks to library team for tribute

I WOULD like to pass on my sincere thanks to Cllr Mike Hill, Lynn Catt and her staff at Swale for their help, co-operation and support in establishing the memorial outside Faversham Library in memory of Joyce Austin who died last year.

She was a dedicated bookworm and a regular user of Swale libraries for some 60 years.

Graham Wanstall, Dover

Can you help find missing family?

I WONDER if any of your readers could please help me track down some long lost family for someone on whose behalf I am acting?

Michael Cross was born near Pembury in 1943, his parents were Sidney and Winifred, nee Clifton, they married near Ashford in 1929.

Michael has recently discovered that he had several brothers who he has never met and is seeking to locate any of them, or their descendants. He now lives in Ohio, USA.

If anyone has any information or questions, please write to malnev@blueyonder.co.uk. All responses will be treated in confidence.

Malcolm Neville, Rainham

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Ramsgate Harbour

by **Paul Breakell**
from Ramsgate

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SUE optimistic divorced lady with CHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1948 Box 408291

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional classy female who loves to be wooed, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

RACHAEL 36yr old nurse looking to raise the temperature of reliable sincere male. I have my OACH, a single mum to 1, love gym, cosy meals, animals etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410445

ANNA, busy mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1954 Box 366019

SUSAN 29 green eyes, dark hair, slim, looking for Mr tall dark and handsome to take me out, enjoy adult times without complications just fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410597

KAREN blonde blue eyed slim 35yr old interesting female looking for good times, call me if I am in a similar situation, board and looking for some fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410719

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. Tel No: 0905 002 1955 Box 409991

JANE pretty size 12, loves going out socialising, countryside, meals out, looking for no strings fun, nothing heavy, give me a call if you are seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410579

SUE 32 blonde blue eyed curvy round, caring, loving romantic, faithful, likes cosy nights in with a nice wine and lovely man, if that's you, call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410571

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1960 Box 408297

JANE tall leggy blonde size 12, nice/eyes, likes yoga, swimming, meals in/out, etc. WLTW nice tall male/dad with similar interests to spend time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410487

WOULD you like to be my Valentine? Widow 68, seeking Valentine 68-70, likes most things, would like to share time with someone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410695

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585

LAURA happy size 12-14, attractive, loves shopping, gym, music, clubbing, eating in/out, looking for sincere honest male looking for more than just good fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410713

KATIE 21yr old very attractive female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410573

ANGIE 32 curvy size 16, very attractive, good company and really fun to be with. What are you waiting for? Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409255

SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking, nice guy to spend time with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408879

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me late but the spark back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409097

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408293

KAREN 55, fun loving, attractive, young at heart, seeks caring, affectionate man, 55-65 who loves animals and the simple things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408813

LISA 44, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, nice personality, trustworthy, kind, likes cinema, nights in, walks, music, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404751

SELSEA 43, driver, own home, N/S, 5ft 6ins, slim, dark hair, green eyes, confident, outgoing, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 40-48. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408405

TERRI 44 green eyed long legged busty blonde, loves to dress up and look feminine, seeking loving, fun, honest professional to fall head over her heels with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410315

SUE attractive, likes walks, gardening, social drinks, looking for male to settle down with, 60's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410231

SATURDAY night blues! Home alone again and looking for male companionship. Blonde, slim, 32yrs, attractive, what are you waiting for? Call me if you're normal and lovely. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408867

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company. WLTW loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408625

CARIBBEAN female, 50, honest, caring, thoughtful, seeking male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408231

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402057

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409107

MALE 45, would like to meet a lady for fun/friendship with view to relationship, nice guy, gosh please get in touch if interested. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4334837

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meetings for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441

MANDY blonde, blue eyes, voluptuous, honest, likes animals, walks, socialising, seeking older male, late 70's early 80's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408741

ALEX 35, very attractive, slim, blonde, caring sensitive single mum, likes meals in/out, nice pubs, WLTW similar minded to love and care for. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408503

LISA busty blonde 34yr old fun to be with single party goer, looking for similar male for adult fun maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408289

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521

LONG dark winters days are on their way, seeking male to help female 66 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407649

MARG elegant attractive affectionate lady who enjoys many varied interests WLTW genuine male 50-60yrs for mutual indulgences. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408511

HEATHER enjoys holidays, eating in with a large bottle of wine, cooking, meeting new people seeking interesting male to get to know a little better. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408509

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, CHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jnr half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, every going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409631

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

STEVE 6ft 4ins, CHAC, seeking relationship, outdoor type, honestly, wanting mutual good relationship with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407835

ANTHONY 48, athletic, enjoys country walks, seeks youthful female for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407355

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

FIT fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to find fanciable lady for free and fascinating future for LTR. Find your jnr half full. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405857

CHRIS 52, slim, looking for female, 25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408575

DAVE 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, every going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

ADAM 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963



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*GSM send WINK 123456 to 80098
*Standard Network rates apply

71YR old romantic, 6ft, likes life, socialising, reading, strong tea, dogs, smoker but house trained seeks mature lady needing TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407277

TALL friendly, very light hearted, single 58, seeks pretty woman for LTR, mutual selection of activities and choosing how to spend our time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407147

YOUNG 70 widower, 5ft, lonely, 5ft 11ins, tall, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoking, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

RETIRED male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589

DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

MALE 50, GSOH, looking for soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387485

JAMIE 6ft 11ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051

STEVE 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717

LIGHT hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Croydon. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405

DAVE 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, CHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dds, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451

35YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941

CHRIS 68, 5ft 13ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

55YR old male, average looks, GSOH, looking to meet similar lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408227

JAMIE 6ft 11ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051

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business

Eurostar on right track as figures soar for 2013

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

EUROSTAR provided the perfect financial platform upon which to celebrate its 20th anniversary later this year with an encouraging hike in both passenger numbers and revenues, according to its latest financial figures.

What's more, it smashed the 10 million passenger mark in a year for the first time.

The high-speed train service whisks passengers from London St Pancras via the international terminals in Ebbsfleet and Ashford to various destinations on the Continent.

Passenger volumes for 2013 were up two per cent year-on-year to 10.1m, with much of that increase being put down to renewed confidence from the business sector.

It brings to a total 140m passengers using the service since it first began, and the tenth consecutive year of growth.

It also comes despite continuing challenging economic conditions.

Sales revenues were up seven per cent



MOVING: Eurostar is on the rise

to £857m, delivering operating profits of £54m - up four per cent year on year.

Nicolas Petrovic, Eurostar's chief executive, said: "Last year proved to be a record breaking year for Eurostar and we are pleased with the sustainable growth in both traveller numbers and sales revenues reported."

"After a period of economic uncertainty we are now starting to see more

confidence in the business market.

"In comparison with this time last year when the overriding sentiment was still very cautious, there are more encouraging trends and in some sectors there is clearly a greater appetite to invest and look for business."

Leisure traveller growth has also shot up 7.5 per cent.

International sales numbers boomed by 18 per cent during 2013.

The company says it intends to continue its on-going investment in marketing and sales initiatives in key international territories and is directly driving awareness of Eurostar's network with a consequent increase in bookings

Mr Petrovic added: "This year will be a transformational year for Eurostar as our on-going programme of service initiatives and enhancements unlocks further potential in the business both at home here in Europe and further afield in our international markets."

"Eurostar is coming of age and we have a wide ranging programme of activity scheduled throughout the year to celebrate our 20th birthday in November."

New Kidd on Channel block

TIM Kidd has been appointed the new chief executive of the Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce.

The 39-year-old, who has lived in east Kent since 1981, says he now intends to guide the business support organisation to the next level.

He explained: "I want local businesses to regard Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce as an essential resource when thinking about the challenges and opportunities ahead."

The Workshop opens its doors

THE continuing transformation of part of central Folkestone continues with an open event at business hub the Workshop being staged later this month to try and attract small and start-up firms.

Based in Tontine Street, it is opening its doors on March 14 looking specifically at freelancers, small business owners and start-up companies, looking to rent space. The event starts from 10am.

Desire to recruit an apprentice shows increasing interest

MORE than a third of businesses in the south east plan to take on an apprentice in the next five years, according to the latest research.

The findings were released as part of National Apprenticeship Week: a high profile campaign to raise awareness of the benefits and opportunities to employers, teachers and parents of modern-day apprenticeships.

Starting on Monday, the week concluded on Friday.

The latest survey revealed 33 per cent of businesses plan to take advantage of the scheme.

The study of 600 businesses also revealed that one fifth (21 per cent) of businesses in the region plan to take on one or more apprentices in the next 12 months alone.

Around a third (32 per cent) of those businesses that plan to take on apprentices say this is because they are a core part of their growth strategy.

Business secretary Vince Cable said: "It's good to see that employers are increasingly recognising the value apprentices can bring to their businesses."

"Apprentices are now a key and valued part of the workforce for most businesses large or small - and the huge increase which this government has overseen is one of my proudest achievements."

"Given the grants available to help small businesses take on apprentices, it's especially good that so many SMEs are embracing apprenticeships in the coming years and that apprentice recruitment now forms a key part of a businesses' plans for sustainable growth."

The study also shows how apprenticeships are growing in popularity, with 45 per cent of south east employers agreeing they would be more likely to offer an apprenticeship than they were two years ago.

National Apprenticeship Week was run by the National Apprenticeship Service, part of the Skills Funding Agency.

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MONACO HISTORIC GRAND PRIX & PORTOFINO

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departure
8 days, semi-all-inclusive, **£949**
Departs 6 May, 2014

**CHAMPAGNE
CHECK-IN**
QUOTE: HG5-KOS

This holiday to the Monaco Historic Grand Prix and the Italian Riviera starts with a glass of bubbly at St Pancras before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice and Diano Marina. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night, Grandstand tickets for the Historic Grand Prix, and visits to Portofino & Dolceacqua.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • afternoon departure • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound • 6 nights in Diano Marina with buffet breakfasts and dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local beer, wine & spirits • Excursions as stated • All transfers abroad



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Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, **£499pp**
Departs 27 March & 16 October, 2014

**FLY FROM
GATWICK**
QUOTE: FE3/10-KOS

Come with us to Maranello in Italy - home to the Ferrari, world's most famous sports car maker. Our tour takes in the The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum, the Fiorano test-track and Viale Enzo Ferrari. We stay at a Ferrari themed hotel and have the opportunity to take a Ferrari out for a spin.



INCLUDED:
• Escorted throughout abroad
• 3 nights B&B at the 4 star Maranello Village Hotel
• Return Easyjet flights, with hand luggage, Gatwick to Bologna - supp't may apply
• All travel and excursions abroad



MONACO HISTORIC GRAND PRIX & PARIS

Escorted Holiday by rail - afternoon departure
5 days, **£759pp**
Departs 8 May, 2014

**CHAMPAGNE
CHECK-IN**
QUOTE: HP5-KOS

This holiday to the Monaco Historic Grand Prix and Paris, starts with a glass of bubbly at St Pancras (Ebbsfleet departures on request) before taking an afternoon Eurostar to Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice where we stay for 3 nights. We've included 2-day seated grandstand tickets for the Historic Grand Prix so you can get close to the action and enjoy the sights and sounds of this fabulous event.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel London St Pancras to Nice - afternoon departure (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris outbound • 3 nights hotel B&B in Nice • Return coastal train to Monaco on 2 days plus grandstand seated tickets for Historic Grand Prix qualifying and Race days • Transfers abroad



QUOTE: HP5-2-KOS

MONACO HISTORIC GRAND PRIX

Escorted Holiday by air
4 days, half board, **£599pp**
Departs 9 May, 2014

**FLY FROM
GATWICK**
QUOTE: HP5-2-KOS

Monaco's Historic Grand Prix is a bi-annual extravaganza run on the Formula 1 course with just as much glitz and glamour as the modern-day event - but with charming old cars from the 1940s to 1980s. We've included 2-day seated tickets for the Historic Grand Prix and flights from Gatwick to Nice, where we stay for 3 nights with visits to Monaco on the scenic coastal railway.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout abroad • Return Easyjet flights with hand luggage Gatwick to Nice - supp't may apply • 3 nights B&B at a 3-star hotel in Nice • Return coastal train to Monaco on 2 days plus grandstand seated tickets for Historic Grand Prix qualifying and Race days • Return airport to hotel transfers

Note: Price of Holidays by Air subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Update

Vauxhall Meriva

Price:	from £12,620
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	Ford B-Max

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PRACTICAL: From being able to carry your bike to clever storage ideas, the Meriva has plenty of tricks up its sleeve and some good engines, too

Classier and a good drive

CALLING a car a multi-purpose vehicle or MPV is like calling it a jack-of-all-trades.

And Vauxhall's original Meriva could hardly argue with such damnation by faint praise; it was practical but anonymous and dull in all other ways.

That changed with the 2010 Mark 2 Meriva, now given a midlife makeover that makes it even more appealing in the small to medium MPV sector.

Aggressively priced from £12,620, the big news is the fully-upgraded low-emission/high-economy powertrains including an all-new 136PS (135bhp) 1.6 CDTi diesel capable of 64.2mpg (official combined cycle) and emitting 116g/km of CO₂ emissions – incurring just £30 road tax or zero in year one.

So quiet is this lightweight aluminium engine that Vauxhall has justifiably dubbed it the 'Whisper Diesel'. The high level of refinement is achieved through streamlined combustion and acoustic damping.

But many buyers are looking more to turbocharged petrol power rather than diesel in smaller models like the Meriva, so a 1.4 unit in 120 and 140PS (119 and 138bhp) outputs is included.

Other changes include minor cosmetics – new grille and headlamps, with LED daytime running lights available for the first time – a steering profile now tuned more to responsive British tastes and a new-generation IntelliLink infotainment system.

What hasn't changed, and didn't need to, is the Meriva's characteristic profile with a distinctive stepped rear window line that has the practical effect of giving smaller rear passengers a better view out.

Meriva's versatility risks damning it as just another MPV – but it's now even swisher and better to drive than ever



Even more important are the rearward-opening rear doors for easier access – a *pièce de résistance* shared with the latest Rolls-Royce Phantom and Ghost models, no less.

Vauxhall calls them FlexDoors and has extra security in place. They have conventional child locks anyway but also lock automatically at speeds above 2mph when a green light in the door handle goes out, indicating that the door cannot be opened.

If a door has not closed properly when the car starts to move, an alarm and dashboard warning go off, but if the car is in an accident, the FlexDoors unlock automatically.

Why go to the trouble? The FlexDoors swing open to an angle of almost 90 degrees, vastly improving entry and exit anyway, but it is parents with small children who will see most benefit as they pilot the kids in and out and strap them in.

It may also avoid the familiar 'mum and bum' scenario in car parks where, with no hands free while battling to attach junior to his seat, mummy gives the rear door a nudge with her derriere and leaves a

mark on the neighbouring car.

With both front and rear door open on one side – the fronts open at a similar angle to the FlexDoors – it is easier to corral and manage the children in and out of the car, too.

Vauxhall also went 'FlexCrazy' elsewhere on the current Meriva, as its designers rethought how interiors and storage worked.

There are easy fold-down rear seats, which can also be moved to create more boot, leg or shoulder room, while the centre console compartment must be one of the biggest and most versatile on the market – you could probably stow a baby in there but for the trouble incurred with social services.

Behind the wheel, the Meriva makes it easy to forget you are driving an MPV, perhaps not surprising when the taut and agile chassis is derived from the excellent Astra.

The cabin is predictably airy – a full-length panoramic roof is available – so this upgraded Meriva should be easy to live with and even rather stylish.



Other view...

the Petrolhead

Much as I hate MPVs, I admit the Meriva's practicality is impressive. Don't hold your breath for a high-performance VXR version, though

She says

It's not beautiful, but the clever rearward-swinging back doors are a big attraction for busy mums laden with kids and bags of shopping

the Eco-warrior

Lots of space and practicality within a compact frame, and some good eco-friendly engines – the Meriva is all the car most people need

www.citroen.co.uk

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Prices & offers apply to retail sales of qualifying Citroën models ordered & delivered 01/01-31/03/14 & include VAT, delivery to dealer & number plates, Government Registration Fee & 12 months' graduated vehicle excise duty. Black/metallic/pearlescent/Sport Yellow/Sport Red paint optional at extra cost. From prices shown: Citroën DS3 VTI 82 manual DSign, DS3 Cabrio VTI 120 manual DStyle, DS4 VTI 120 manual DStyle & DS5 HDI 160 6-speed automatic DSign. Models shown: Citroën DS3 THP 155 6-speed manual DSport, DS3 Cabrio VTI 120 manual DStyle, DS4 THP 200 6-speed manual DSport & New DS5 Hybrid4 200 Air Dream DSport with optional 19" black 'Cairns' alloy wheels available at a higher price. *One bulk advance rental will be required, followed by 46 monthly rentals at the rates shown & an optional final rental. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. Payment of the optional final rental extends the rental term (this does not transfer title of the vehicle) & requires an annual rental equivalent to one month's rental. Finance subject to status. A guarantee may be required. Over 18s only. Written quotations available on request from Citroën Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QA, UK. Finance offers apply to UK only. †Free insurance is only available on Elect 4 Personal Finance Lease & Elect 3 if car ownership is required. Ask us details. Free insurance available on Citroën DS3 DStyle & New Citroën DS3 Cabrio DStyle models in UK mainland. Policyholder must be aged 21-75 years (25-75 for New DS3 Cabrio models). Drivers aged 21-24 years are required to activate the Telematics Box & consent to data capture & transmission to qualify for free insurance. Insurance cover is subject to cancellation if you receive four warnings for poor driving. All drivers must hold a full UK licence & meet eligibility criteria, including limits on driving convictions & claims. Excesses apply. 1 year's Citroën Motor Insurance will be provided & underwritten by U K Insurance Limited. Free Insurance excludes Northern Ireland. Offers, prices & specification correct at time of going to press from participating Dealers. Terms & conditions apply. Please ask us for details. Subject to stock availability.

Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO₂ emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën DS4 THP 160 6-speed automatic DStyle 10.6/26.6, 6/47.1, 7.7/36.7, 178. Lowest: Citroën DS5 Hybrid4 200 Air Dream DSign 3.1/91.1, 3.6/78.5, 3.4/83.1, 88. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.



Kia's top cee'd

Kia's first high-performance model, the pro_ceed GT, has been joined by a five-door version, the cee'd GT, available in two versions: standard (£20,495) and GT Tech (£22,995).

Both are powered by a turbo-charged version of Kia's 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol engine delivering 201bhp and 0-60mph in 7.4 seconds.

Like the impressive pro_ceed version, they have been tuned with everyday usability in mind and are backed by Kia's unique seven-year warranty.



New No1 used car

WHILE the newly-launched, all-new second-generation Nissan Qashqai crossover attracts many plaudits, the original car (pictured) – the most decorated British-built car ever – is still adding to its trophy cabinet.

The latest award, 'Used Car of the Year' from the motor trade's own highly-respected Automotive Management, was awarded for a 'winning blend of economy, performance, and equipment as well as its strong residuals'.



i3 Car of the Year

BMW's hi-tech i3 electric car lifted the top prize at the inaugural UK Car of the Year awards, decided by 27 British motor journalists.

The i3 – the winning version features an onboard motorcycle engine to extend its range – also took the Best Supermini category, while BMW's 5 Series won the Best Executive Car award.

Skoda also scooped two categories with its Octavia range: Best Family Car and Best Estate Car.

Week ending March 9, 2014 **45**

CUSTOMISABLE: The cool and classy DS3 looks good anyway but is a blank canvas – if you want to make your vehicle unique, there are lots of options

DS may be no goddess but it has lots of finesse

Citroën's classy and customisable DS3 has been a marvel, driving sales and its image ever upwards, says **Steve Loader**

CITROËN DS3 DSTYLE 1.6VTi

Price:	£15,375
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£125/year
Best rival:	Mini

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Folkestone	01303 245688
Maidstone	01622 750442

Hidsons

Northfleet	01474 546470
Gillingham	01634 377244

Barretts

Canterbury	01227 828999
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CITROËN wowed the motoring world in 1955 when it used the Paris motor show to unveil the original DS model.

The big saloon's sleek, aeronautically-inspired lines and advanced hydropneumatic self-levelling suspension persuaded 743 people to place orders within 15 minutes – some 12,000 had followed suit by the end of the day. It also helped that this elegant new car's designation DS was a neat pun – 'deesse' also means goddess in French.

Fast-forward to 2010 and the compact hatchback that revived the DS brand could not be less like the original – or a goddess for that matter – but its galvanizing effect on the sales and image of the Citroën marque has been equally dramatic.

Citroën had been cast in a value-brand role, leaving sister marque Peugeot to play to more upmarket clientele, but the influx of Far East brands also targeting budget sales left Citroën horribly exposed until the DS3 arrived to herald a new premium line-up.

Admittedly, the bigger DS4 and DS5 follow-up models have been less of a success – though they both look terrific – but Citroën can't mind too much when the tiny DS3 has landed so many awards and spearheaded sales across the line-up.

Despite its premium image, it's also very affordable, with an entry price of £12,495 for the 82bhp 1.2-litre Dsign, though it's no firebrand and some buyers will want a better trade-off on performance versus the Dsign's undoubted economy (62.8mpg official combined).

One answer is perhaps a 1.6-litre diesel wearing Citroën's Airdream

eco branding (from £15,570), which offers an impressive 78.5mpg (combined) in junior 90bhp form – the 115bhp version will give you more zest but slightly less economy.

However, the best all-rounders are probably the 1.6-litre petrol versions available in 120 and 155bhp formats, with lively performance to match the DS3's racy looks.

There can be no denying that the DS3 and Fiat 500 are the key rivals to the BMW Mini, which started a craze for high-image small cars with huge scope for customisation.

In Citroën's case, the designers blanked out part of the centre side pillar to create the impression the roof is floating: when the roof itself is picked out in a different colour or covered with a decal, the effect is even more eye-catching.

No wonder so many choose to personalise their DS3s or choose one of the ready customised special editions Citroën is happy to supply.

Citroën made the choice even more

varied last year by launching a dazzling Cabrio version (from £15,205). True, it's not a full convertible, but the roll-top roof – available in different colours, naturally – allows this version to retain the looks and interior versatility of its hatchback sister and seat five. It's also just 25 kilos heavier, so the DS3's fun handling is not greatly compromised.

And here's the point: the DS3 is one of those small cars that does live up to its funky looks and deliver a good driving experience, too, with good grip and a flat cornering stance with a firmish ride.

The 120bhp petrol-engine test car in popular mid-range DStyle spec proved this point well and, with 0-62mph available in 8.9 seconds, is both lively and more affordable.

The premium image and the prestigious DS label are upheld by a well-trimmed and attractive cabin, decent boot and enough options to make it feel very upmarket indeed.



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CHOICE: Car-buyers with disabilities can choose the same mainstream models as any able-bodied person thanks to Motability... from the economy and chic style of a supermini like the Renault Clio to the practical SUV style of a Skoda Yeti

Mobility revolution drives on

MOTABILITY has delivered a physical and financial revolution for hard-pressed disabled people and their families.

The Government-backed programme enables them to get on the road for much less than it would cost to buy or lease a new or

nearly-new car privately, and helps them with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

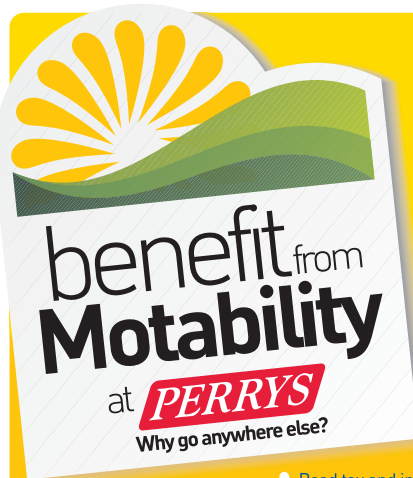
The scheme's regular payments can also take care of everyday running costs, from insurance, maintenance and repairs to

breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when motoring costs are soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist that the disabled person is the driver; the car is made available for the benefit of that person.

The advantage here is that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

■ For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see inside this special Motability supplement.



Perrys Sittingbourne - multi award winning Motability dealer & the biggest choice of Motability cars in the area

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can simply exchange part or all of your government-funded allowance for a brand new car.

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So then, do you want to go green with Motability?

ECO motoring has caught on through savings on fuel and tax, as much as saving the planet.

And Motability caters for those of its customers who want to 'go eco' for either reason by flagging up the best models for this, using a green-leaf symbol on its website Car Search.

Of course, most low-emission cars (road tax bands A and B) have smaller engines and bodies and may be unsuitable for disabled users or their families, who may require more space for wheelchair storage or extra passengers.

Another key issue is whether to opt for diesel or petrol.

The popular wisdom has been that diesel cars are more economical, but this is not so clear-cut now when the diesels cost more to source and the fuel itself is dearer at the pumps.

If most of your driving is long distance or on motorways, then Motability recommends that diesel is best for fuel efficiency and lower CO2 emissions, but if you mostly drive in town or locally, petrol is best and less polluting; diesels give off harmful pollutants, though these should be neutralised by a particulate filter on the exhaust if the car is properly maintained.

Modern turbocharged petrol engines have also become more efficient and tend to be nicer to drive than diesel equivalents, particularly in smaller models.

Hybrids – harnessing a petrol or diesel engine in tandem with an electric motor and batteries – are another option but tend to be more expensive, while electric cars simply don't have the range between charges at present to be viable for anything other than short-distance town driving and commuting.



SAVE EMISSIONS AND CASH: Honda produces a petrol-electric hybrid version of its Jazz supermini MPV, above, while diesel versions of this smart and practical Peugeot 2008 can be very eco-friendly and economical

Lipscomb Cars Ltd
www.lipscomb.co.uk

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people



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Lipscomb Fiat 01233 223079
Bridge House, Chart Road,
Ashford, Kent TN23 3HZ

Tips on narrowing your choice

SMALL CARS: Tend to have the lowest advance payments, running costs and CO₂ emissions. Two- and three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles. These may make access easier, but closing the door and fitting in narrow parking spaces may be harder. Four- and five-door cars benefit from superior back-seat access, useful if you have more than one passenger.

MEDIUM CARS: Often sold as

hatchbacks and will have a slightly bigger boot than a standard small car. The same doors argument applies as for small cars.

FAMILY CARS: Large four-door saloons or five-door hatchbacks, considerably larger than medium-sized cars. Hatchbacks usually have more boot capacity.

ESTATE CARS: Usually longer than a standard saloon or hatchback, with

useful space for mobility aids in the boot, but this can add to the car's bulk – make sure you check it out with a test drive before committing.

MULTI-PURPOSE VEHICLES (MPVS): Ranging from small to large, MPVs can seat up to nine people. The seats are higher, with more headroom, legroom and width. Some have large sliding side-doors.

4X4 AND SPORT UTILITY

VEHICLES (SUV): The term '4x4' usually describes vehicles designed for off-road use, which generally have higher ground clearance. Until recently, all 4x4s had four-wheel-drive, but many people now buy for the SUV styling and opt for a front-wheel-drive-only to save fuel.

COUPÉS, ROADSTERS AND CABRIOLETS: Sporty but usually compromised for disabled users due to their two-door format,

cramped seating and smaller boots.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAVS): Cars converted to carry passengers travelling in their wheelchair, or those who wish to drive from a wheelchair. WAVs may be best if you have trouble getting in and out of the car from your wheelchair and would prefer to remain in it when travelling as a passenger. The Motability website has a WAV Search.



SPACE OR PACE? What's it to be? A roomy MPV like the Renault Scenic XMOD... a practical family hatch-cum-estate like the Volvo V40... or an economical supermini like the Vauxhall Corsa?

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Fiat with

500L TREKKING

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There are currently 10 versions of the Fiat 500L model at NIL advance payment. For further information and for a complete list of Fiat cars available on the Motability scheme, please call 01227 828200 or visit our website: www.northgate-fiat.co.uk

NORTHGATE FIAT, 1 WESTMINSTER ROAD, VAUXHALL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CANTERBURY, KENT, CT1 1YY. TEL: 01227 828200 WWW.NORTHGATE-FIAT.CO.UK

*Vehicle shown is 500L 1.4 Trekking with Bicolour paint at additional cost. Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO₂ emissions in Europe[^] Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L Trekking range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 60.1 (4.7); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 74.3 (3.8); Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 67.3 (4.2). CO₂ emissions 149 – 109 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed between 1st Jan – 31st March. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. [^]Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume-weighted average CO₂ emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, full year 2012.

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26 Hoath Lane, Wigmore
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*Price refers to the ŠKODA Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS model in Brilliant Silver metallic and Denim Blue metallic paint with a temporary spare steel wheel only, while stocks last. Available on new retail orders subject to availability before the 31 March 2014. Available for over 18s. Retail sales only. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Model shown is Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS.

Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



EASY CHOICE: Motability.co.uk's search function makes it easier to work out which of these two alternatives is best for you: the Skoda Octavia Estate, pictured above, or Fiat's supermini 500L, left

DISABLED car-buyers can't easily trek around many different dealers to find their ideal vehicle, so it's great that Motability's website (www.motability.co.uk) can help draw up a short-list.

Its search function allows a fast check through 2,000 or so eligible vehicles, taking account of buying parameters and the specialist needs of Motability users.

'Drive' your car on-site with Motability

Search by car details takes a consumer-style approach, including:

- What kind of mobility allowance the user has
- What level of advance payment the user intends to pay, if any
- Preferred car type, make, model

and number of doors

- Whether the user wants a manual, semi-automatic or automatic gearbox
 - Whether the driver is under 25
- But there are two other search programmes: Search by Accessibility

Needs, taking account of car measurements; and Search for a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV).

There is also advice on which type of car to look for, in language more relevant to disabled users, such as how hatchbacks have a lift-up rear

door or 'hatch', which could make it harder for a wheelchair-user to open/close or access items, or be problematic when opening in the garage.

■ For more tips, see our earlier page on which car class might be best suited for your needs.

The Honda range,
available from Nil Advance Payment

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BARRETTS HONDA

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 – 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 – 3.3), Combined 32.5 – 78.5 (8.7 – 3.6). CO₂ emissions 201 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models Shown: Jazz 1.2i-VTEC Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic, Civic 1.4i-VTEC Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic and CR-V 2.0i-VTEC Manual 2WD in optional Passion Red Pearl. **Terms and Conditions:** Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.2i-VTEC Manual and Civic 1.4i-VTEC Manual, £999 Advanced Payment offer on CR-V 2.0i-VTEC Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY

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WWW.MOTORLINE.CO.UK

BOOK A TEST DRIVE



The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)–78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2)–94.2 (3); Combined 36.7 (7.7)–88.3 (3.2). The range's official CO₂ emissions are 178–83g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO₂ may vary with driving styles, road conditions and other factors. Advance payment offers are only valid for Motability applications to 31 March 2014 and are correct at time of going to press. Motability is a trademark of Motability. Registered charity number 299745.



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Evidence of continual professional development
Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager 07925 978812

Staff Nurse
Full time, Margate
£23,000 - £25,000 per annum Dependant on experience
Qualifications: Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/ medical procedures
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Mary Guarniari, Matron 01843 234252

Health Care Assistant – Out Patients Department
Full time, Margate
£16,000 per annum
Qualifications: Relevant NVQ Level 2 or equivalent experience
Previous experience working in an outpatients Dept.
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Carolyn Flegg, Outpatient Manager 07925 978812

Porter/Handyman
Full time, Margate
£15,035.87 per annum
Qualifications: Relevant NVQ Level 1-2 or City and Guilds
Experience in Carpentry, plumbing and basic DIY skills
Smart, personable with excellent communication skills
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Mary Guarniari, Matron 01843 234252

Receptionist/Administrator
Full time, Margate
£15,055 per annum
Qualifications: NVQ Level 1 or 2 in Customer Services
Maths and English to GCSE or equivalent
2 years experience of working with the public
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact:
Caroline McKean, Outpatient Administration Supervisor 01843 234372
(Previous applicants need not apply)

Closing date for applications Friday 14 March 2014
For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Wright, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital,
2nd Floor, Atina House, 5 Bench Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1JH
Telephone: 01304 245961 Fax: 01304 207320
E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com
Alternatively you can download an application form and job description from our website www.spencerprivatehospitals.com
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Following recent acquisition of Sherlodge Skoda, Gillingham, Motorline is now seeking car sales executives to join our team.
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Closing date for applications – 14th March 2014

Interviews will be taking place on – 19th March 2014

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Closing date 14th March 2014

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Registered Community Nurses

£11.71 - £12.30 per hour.
'Days' and 'Night' shift patterns are available.

Care Support Workers – General

£7.31 - £8.06 per hour.
'Earlies' and 'Late' shift patterns are available.

Care Support Workers – Mental Health

£7.31 - £8.06 per hour.
'Earlies' and 'Late' shift patterns are available.

Care Support Workers – Community

£7.56 - £8.06 per hour.
'Earlies' and 'Late' shift patterns are available.

Physiotherapists

Band 5 - £11.71 - £12.30 per hour.
Band 6 - £14.27 - £14.98 per hour.
Day shift patterns are available.

Admin & Clerical

Band 2 - £7.11 - £7.87 per hour.
Band 3 - £8.11 - £8.91 per hour.
Day shift patterns are available.

Experience: Six months relevant experience gained in the last two years.

To apply to join NHSP:Bank or to find out more visit:
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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



SECTION 70 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

Fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences

Fees for Private Hire Vehicle Operators Licences

Shepway District Council proposes to vary the fees charged for:

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences to the rate of **£266.00** per annum.

Private Hire Vehicle Operator Licence per vehicle to the rate of **£61.00** per annum.

It is intended that the changes are to be effective from **07 April 2014**.

A copy of this Notice will be available for inspection at the Council's Offices during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to make representations about these proposals should do so in writing giving reasons for so doing. Representations should reach the undersigned within 28 days from the date of this Notice.

Dated: 9 March 2014

Licensing Manager
Shepway District Council
Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone
Kent CT20 2QY

To place
your notice
here,
call the
Kent Public Notice
team on

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL, in accordance with the provisions of section 70(3)(a)(b) of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that the fees chargeable under this section for the grant of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle and driver licences and private hire operator licences, together with additional costs appertaining to such licences, shall be varied as from 9th April 2014 to be:-

	Existing Fees	New Fees for 2014/15
Dual Driver Licence (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire)		
On initial application	£172 for three years	£175 for three years
Disclosure Barring Service search fee	£44 every three years	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service
Total (including DBS fee)	£216 for three years	£219 for three years
On renewal	£163 for three years	£166 for three years
Disclosure Barring Service search fee	£44 every three years	£44 every three years or £13 per year if they sign up to the DBS online service
Total (including DBS fee)	£207 for three years	£210 for three years
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence		
On initial application	£327 for one year (which includes £30 towards the Unmet Demand Survey)	£333 for one year (which includes £30 towards the Unmet Demand Survey)
On renewal	£266 for one year (which includes £30 towards the Unmet Demand Survey)	£271 for one year (which includes £30 towards the Unmet Demand Survey)
Private Hire Operator Licence		
One vehicle	£174 for three years	£177 for three years
Up to and including 5 vehicles	£332 for three years	£339 for three years
For six or more vehicles	£78/for each additional vehicle over 5 vehicles for three years	£80/for each additional vehicle over 5 vehicles for three years
Private Hire Vehicle Licence		
On initial application	£297 for one year	£303 for one year
On renewal	£236 for one year	£241 for one year
Additional Costs		
Transfer of licence plate/ change of ownership of licensed vehicle (different owner but vehicle details remain the same)	£88	£65
Change of licensed vehicle (where there is under six months left from the original licence)	N/A	£200
Change of licensed vehicle (where there is more than six months left from the original licence)	N/A	£260
Replace external vehicle plate	£23	£23
Replace driver badge	£9	£9
Replace vehicle plate holder	£18	£18
Replace internal plate holder	£1.75	£1.75
Attempting "Knowledge Test" after two failure	£49	£50
Door transfers PHV only (per transfer)	£7.70	£7.70
Copy of existing paper licence	£8	£11
Change of address details for a replacement licence	£10.50	£11
Change of name for a vehicle or operator licence	£10.50	£11
Change of name and address for a driver badge	£20	£20
Vehicle exemption certificate or general administration fee	£44	£44

• Hackney carriage vehicles are subject to additional fee of £30 for demand survey. However a change of vehicle where the expiry date remains the same as the original licence will not be charged this fee.

• Insurance plates - where a plate has been issued for a year to an Accident Management Company (Cab Aid etc.). A reallocation of the vehicle to a different driver will necessitate a change of plate number. (for example, originally INS 123 but on reallocation becomes INS 678)

A copy of this Notice shall, for a period of **twenty-eight days from the date of first publication**, be deposited at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Offices at Town Hall, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS and will be available on the Council's website.

Persons wishing to make representations to these proposals may do so in writing to the undersigned by 4th April 2014.

Licensing Partnership, P.O. Box 182
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP



Sales Manager

Located near Ashford, Kent, Palmstead Nurseries Ltd produces and supplies a large range of premium quality plants to the landscape and amenity markets. We currently have an exciting opportunity to join our progressive team as Sales Manager and to work within a dynamic, professional and successful business.

We are looking for a motivated, well organised and target driven individual to ensure continuing sales growth through creating and maintaining strong relations with suppliers and customers. The successful candidate will have a proven track record in sales, ideally gained in a similar industry, with the ability to exceed sales targets. Ideally you will have knowledge of the horticulture industry and be able to demonstrate drive, flair and commitment. What matters most is that you are keen, enthusiastic and capable with excellent communication, team leading and customer skills. In turn, you will receive training and development in a supportive and friendly environment.

To apply please download an Employment Application form from www.palmstead.co.uk/application or call (01233) 813340 to request a copy. Return by post to the address at the top of the form or alternatively email your form to opportunities@palmstead.co.uk, along with any questions you may have about the role. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 19 March with interviews beginning Monday 24 March, and a suggested start date of April/May 2014.



"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for an...

Occupational Therapist

to join and enhance our high calibre team.
Medway Scale B2 – point 32 to 41 (£27,323 to £34,894)
(Full time – term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is currently located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Occupational Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential. The postholder will be offered the opportunity to express their creativity, work holistically and demonstrate their strengths whilst undertaking a wide variety of tasks within the post. Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant OT qualification. The successful candidate will work as part of a larger therapy team, alongside Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Music and Art Therapists. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 21st March 2014

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CVs will not be accepted.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for New Premises Licence

We P.K.Pantry Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Ashford Borough Council, on 4th March 2014 for grant of a new premises licence to permit the following licensable activities

The sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises
In respect of the premises situated at 58, North Road, Biddenden, Kent TN27 8AS and known by the sign of P. K Produce. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. – Monday to Friday except public holidays) 01233 330271 by appointment.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing Team, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL giving in detail the grounds of objection by **2nd April 2014 (28 days the day after the application is received by the licensing department)**

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant, 8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP



Town and Country planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 - Article 8-Notice of an application for planning permission accompanied by an Environmental Statement

Application Reference :	SW/13/1571	Case No. : 14103
Proposal :	The erection of four wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of up to 126.5 metres, together with a substation and control building, associated hardstandings, an improved access junction, connecting internal access tracks, and other related infrastructure.	
Location :	New Rides Farm, Leysdown Road, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4DD	

THIS APPLICATION IS FOR A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT
THIS APPLICATION MAY AFFECT A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
THIS APPLICATION MAY BE OF A WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST
THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

I give notice that an application accompanied by an Environmental Statement has been submitted to Swale Borough Council for the above development.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the application, the plans, and other documents submitted with it at the Planning Services Reception, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, during normal office hours of Sheerness District Officer, Trinity Road, Sheerness.

Members of the public can obtain a hard copy of the Environmental Statement for £250.00 subject to availability, also a CD copy can be obtained for £5.00 from:

Contact: Richard Frost
Tel: 01202 856905

This application can also be viewed via our partnership with the UK Planning website (www.ukplanning.com/swale), but this may take up to 7 days to be completed. When using this website please use application reference SW/13/1571. You may submit any observations on the application via the website.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Planning Services Manager, Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT by 24 March 2014.

Please note by law, any letters received have to be made available for inspection by the applicant or any other interested person.

James Freeman, Head of Development Services

PLANNING



THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0219/SH - 1 Mabledon Close New Romney Kent TN28 8HT - Felling of a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area

Y14/0094/SH - 5 Queens Mews Wellington Place Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Erection of a porch and conversion of garage into living accommodation.

Y14/0192/SH - Castle House Castle Hill Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2TQ - Advertisement consent for the display of a free standing company logo sign.

Y14/0202/SH - Folkestone Library 2 Grace Hill Folkestone Kent CT20 1HD - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising a 3 metre crown lift and pruning back to the boundary of overhanging branches of an Ash and pruning back to the boundary of overhanging branches of a Holly.

Y14/0189/SH - Chichester House New Road Elham Canterbury Kent - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the felling of a Holly and a 1 metre overall crown reduction of two Yews

Y14/0127/SH - Land Adjacent Sunny Sands Gift Shop The Stade Folkestone Kent - Erection of a single storey pitched roof building for boat storage and changing facilities for seaports use, together with extensions and external alterations to the existing kiosk to provide a terrace area.

Y14/0060/SH - Beavers Hill Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Installation of first floor cladding and ground floor render to external elevations.

Y14/0124/SH - Richmond House 9 - 10 The Parade Folkestone Kent CT20 1SL - Alterations and conversion to create four self-contained flats.

Y14/0195/SH - 82 The Bayle Folkestone Kent CT20 1SJ - Listed Building Consent for the installation of 2 new staircases; installation of 2no. ensuites to 2nd floor; opening of blocked door to alleyway; replacement of 1 window to front and 1 window to rear.

Y13/0980/SH# - 106-108 High Street Dymchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0LD - Change of use from workshop/store to holiday let including associated external alterations.

Y14/0158/SH - Hotel Imperial Princes Parade Hythe Kent CT21 6AE - Section 73 application for variation of condition 2 of planning permission Y10/0898/SH (alterations and improvements to the hotel including residential development etc) for minor amendments to include utility rooms and dumb waiters, reorientation of units to maximise views and amendment to Units 32-37 to provide 3 pairs of semi detached dwellings

Y14/0196/SH - Hylands Sandgate Esplanade Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Installation of cladding to external elevations.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED) AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS & CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/TW/0048/2014 - Proposed development at Oakley School, Pembury Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4NE

Kent County Council Property and Infrastructure Support is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for two single storey extensions to the existing school buildings including carpark layout adjustments and expansion.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

The proposed development is partly within a Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council

Dated: 9th March 2014



To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 24 MARCH 2014

SW/14/0094:
Installation of black insulated log burner flue pipe. Exterior of building - 24 Provender Walk, Belvedere Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/14/0178:
Advertisement consent for 1x fascia sign, 1x hanging sign, 2x nameplate signs, 2x A0 posters and 2x A1 posters - Natwest Bank, 13 Market Place, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/14/0179:
Demolition of the existing Court House and erection of 3-storey building containing 8x 4 bed houses, 2x 2 bed flats and 1x 1 bed flat with storage for 24 bicycles - The Court House, 1 Park Road, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3

SW/14/0180:
Demolition of existing garages and boundary wall and construction of one detached 3 bedroom house, two 3 bedroom semi-detached houses and a terraced house consisting of two four bedroom units and one three bedroom unit with associated landscaping, parking and access - The Vicarage, Church Lane, NEWINGTON; REASON 7

SW/14/0195:
Change of use from agriculture to mixed use agriculture and tourism + placement of 2 mobile shepherds huts and 1 free floating pod for tourist accommodation as part of farm diversification project - Kingshill Farm, Elmley, SHEERNESS; REASONS 2 & 4

SW/14/0197:
Single storey ground floor extension - Holly Cottage, 1 North Lane, BOUGHTON; REASON 1

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning



Planning applications

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/02125/FUL: 165 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5AQ Conversion of existing flat and ancillary store rooms to form two additional dwellings including alteration of access to separate first-floor flat. **Applicant: Mr J Pashley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00246/LB: Barn at Burnt House Farm, Station Road, Chartham, CT4 7HU Rehank Kent peg tiles on barn roof and repair/replace battens and rafters as required. **Applicant: Dr Waller** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/14/00274/ADV: 49A St Peters Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BE Display of 1 x no. fascia, 1 x no. high level projecting sign, new awning sign and new portable wind barriers. **Applicant: Gigging Squid** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00337/FUL: River House, 5 All Saints Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2AU First-floor extensions to front and rear, external alterations, replacement of river wall and replacement gates to front entrance. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs P Munt** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00349/FUL: Anester Cottage, London Road, Harbledown, CT2 9AN Erection of a two-storey detached dwelling and detached single garage including new access off Chaucer Mews. **Applicant: Mr R Baker** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00365/FUL: 62 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2BH. Stationing of a 'portakabin' and retention of 'rovacabin' for a period of twenty four months. **Applicant: Clague Architects** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00380/FUL: 52 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1ST Demolition of single-storey masonry lean-to and timber framed porch and proposed single-storey rear extension and formation of a new light well serving existing basement. **Applicant: Mr Town** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00389/FUL: Dial Post, Hatch Lane, Chartham, CT4 7LN Enlargement of dormers. **Applicant: Mr G Hutchings** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/14/00401/FUL: Downland, Ivanhoe Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6EG Proposed loft conversion including rear dormer window and rooflights, single-storey rear extension and new 1.2m close boarded fence to site perimeter. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Musty** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00402/TP0: 6 St Stephen's Green, Canterbury, CT2 7JU T1 - Plum - fell as close to ground level as is practicable and treat the stump with an appropriate herbicide, T2 - Plum - fell as close to ground level as is practicable and treat the stump with an appropriate herbicide **Applicant: O.C.A.** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00408/FUL: 56 Middle Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1BN Replacement window. **Applicant: Mr Deja** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00409/FUL: The White House, Black Robin Lane, Kingston Erection of two-storey and single-storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. **Applicant: Mr Wilkinson** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00413/TP0: 75 Gordon Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QX Crown reduction of two Horse Chestnut trees. **Applicant: Miss L Stan** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00414/FUL: 11 Rheims Court, Canterbury, CT2 8LB Erection of single-storey extension to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr J Astin** Reason: Conservation area.
CA/14/00422/LB: Treasury Farm House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QN Alterations to conservatory. **Applicant: Dr Mark Downes** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc to arrive on or before Monday 31 March 2014.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 7 March 2014

To advertise in this section

01303 817056

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2014



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Canterbury City Council has made the above Order under Sections 32 and 35 of and Parts III and IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

PART A

- (i)

The Order relates to the following car parks:
Albin's, Beach Street, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Castle Row, Castle Street, Chapel Street, Council Offices (Staff and Visitors), Cow Lane, Essex Street, Faversham Road Seasalter, Fountain Street, Franklyn House, Sturry, Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Hampton Pier, Hawks Lane, Holman's Meadow, Keam's Yard, Kingsmead, Kingsmead Leisure Centre, King's Road, Longport, Market Street, Marlowe Theatre, Maynard Road, Memorial Park Herne Bay, Middle Wall, Millers Field, Neptune, New Dover Road Park and Ride, New Street, Northgate, North Lane, Notley Street, Orange Street, Oyster, Pound Lane, Queningate, Reculver Drive, Reculver Towers, Regent Street, Riverside Children's Centre, Rosemary Lane, Rye's, Salt Marsh Lane, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, St Radigund's, School Lane, Shaftesbury Road (North and South), Southern Way, Station Road West, Sturry Road Park and Ride, Swalecliffe Avenue, Sydenham Street, Tankerton Park and Ride, Tower Way, Toddlers Cove, Victoria Recreation Ground, Victoria Street, Watling Street, Whitefriars, Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable Swimming Pool, William Street, Wincheap Park and Ride, Windsor House and Canterbury Coach Park.
- (ii)

Unless otherwise stated the above car parks are only available for use by:
(a) Motor Cars and Solo Motor Cycles
(b) Private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and
(c) Minibuses and Motor Caravans if they fit within a marked bay
and the maximum period of waiting is 24 hours; except that where specifically delineated bays are available in car parks they are to be used only by a disabled person's vehicle displaying a disabled person's badge for a maximum of three hours in Pay and Display car parks on a free of charge basis after which payment must be made. The accompanying clock must also be set to the time of arrival and displayed. The disabled parking permit that is available in exceptional circumstances for those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Component at the Higher Rate) who live and/or work in the City subject to an administration charge of £12.50 (inclusive of VAT) has been discontinued for any new applicants.
- (iii)

St Radigund's car park, Canterbury is available for public service vehicles displaying a permit issued by the Council and by motor cars and by private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and by minibuses and motor caravans not exceeding 5.5m in length.
- (iv)

The maximum period of waiting in the Kingsmead Leisure Centre car park, Canterbury, is three hours in any 12 hour period and it is available for minibuses, motor cars, motorcycles, private light goods vehicles and public service vehicles in the bays provided.
- (v)

Canterbury Coach Park, Canterbury, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, minibuses and motor caravans. The Kingsmead car park will be used as an overflow coach park when necessary.
- (vi)

Gorrell Tank car park, Whitstable, is available for motor cars and private light goods vehicles and
- market traders' vehicles not exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight, except for maintenance vehicles used in connection with the Pumping Station. It has become a short stay car park.
- (vii)

Orange Street car park, Canterbury, is only available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge. It is limited to a maximum stay of 24 hours.
- (viii)

Chapel Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge during the day on Mondays to Saturdays and for vehicles displaying a residents' permit overnight and on Sundays.
- (ix)

William Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, motor cars, private light goods vehicles and commercial vehicles.
- (x)

Neptune car park, Herne Bay, is available for motor cars, private light goods vehicles, public service vehicles and vehicles with trailers and trailers in the bays provided.
- (xi)

Albin's, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Essex Street, Fountain Street, Hawk's Lane, New Street, Notley Street, Regent Street, Rye's, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, Salt Marsh Lane, Southern Way, Sydenham Street and Tower Way car parks are available for any period for vehicles displaying a residents' parking permit purchased from the Council. The permits are purchased annually and last for one year. They may not be available for those who hold an on-street parking permit. The cost of the residents' parking permits in respect of the car parks within Canterbury is £340 per annum and £88 per annum for those in Whitstable except for the Sydenham Street car park which is £20 per annum (all inclusive of VAT). A card for sites with barrier controlled access is available at a fee of £30. Franklyn House, Sturry and Windsor House, Whitstable car parks are available for permit holders only.
- (xii)

The Council Offices staff car park is available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for employment purposes in the spaces indicated who are displaying a valid permit issued by the Council for that car park and on Saturdays and Sundays only, for the public. The definition of a staff parking permit has been removed. Solo motorcycles or motorcycles with side cars may also be parked in the spaces indicated. The Council Offices visitor car park is available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for business purposes for a maximum of four hours unless a special permit is displayed.
- (xiii)

Tankerton Road car park is also available for public service vehicles in the bays provided.
- (xiv)

Whitstable Swimming Pool car park is available for motor cars, minibuses and private light goods vehicles. The parking fee is no longer refunded to users of the adjacent ten pin bowling facility. Car parking is limited to a maximum stay of three hours.
- (xv)

Holders of a business users reserved space permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Hawks Lane, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane, St John's Lane and St Radigund's car parks. The holders of business users permits are able to park in any Canterbury pay and display car park except for North Lane, Pound Lane, Queningate and Watling Street car parks. The holders of a Castle Street

- business user permit may park in that car park between 7am and 11pm on any day.
- (xvi)

The holders of a Herne Bay Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Beach Street, King's Road, Market Street, Neptune and William Street car parks.
- (xvii)

Holders of a Whitstable Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road, Tankerton Road and Victoria Street car parks.
- (xviii)

Canterbury market trader permits are available for use in the Maynard Road car park on Wednesdays or Fridays free of charge. The Longport car park is no longer available for this purpose. A Herne Bay Market Trader Permit is also available for use in the William Street Car Park on Saturdays at a cost of £32 per annum. A Whitstable Market Trader permit is also available for use in Gorrell Tank car park on Thursdays at a cost of £32 per annum (all prices inclusive of VAT).
- (xix)

Canterbury Accommodation permits are able to be used in any pay and display car park except for Watling Street car park.
- (xx)

Worshippers permits will be discontinued. Existing permit holders may continue to use their permits until 30 September 2014.
- (xxi)

Longport, Northgate and Station Road West car parks have become central car parks and the definition of an outer car park has been removed.
- (xxii)

Pay and display tickets are not able to be re-used in other Council car parks.
- (xxiii)

The 12 hour maximum stay provision for central premium and central car parks has been removed.
- (xxiv)

Any person who has an outstanding penalty charge notice against them will not be granted any permit for use in the Council's car parks. Permits are only available on production of a valid full driving licence.

PART B

The Order provides the following scale of charges with effect from 1 April 2014:

Car Park	Charge
(i) Whitefriars (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 6am and 6pm:	
Sunday to Friday:	
Minimum fee	£1.70
Per hour	£1.70
Saturdays:	
Minimum fee	£3.40
Per hour thereafter	£1.70
Over 5 hours	£20
Between 6pm and 12 midnight:	
Any period	£1.70
(No entry after 12 midnight)	
NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge £20	
NOTE 2: Shop mobility users may park for up to three hours free of charge	
(ii) Central Premium, Canterbury – Holman's Meadow, Queningate, Watling Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 7am and 9pm daily:	
Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.50

NOTE 1: Watling Street car park will be free after 6pm on Thursday.

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2014



- (iii) **Central, Canterbury –**
Castle Row, Longport, Millers Field, North Lane, Northgate, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane, St Radigund's and Station Road West (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.20

Castle Street

Between 7am and 11pm daily:

Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.20

NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge for Castle Street £20

NOTE 2: Release fee for Castle Street £50

NOTE 3: North Lane and Station Road West car parks have free parking for up to 20 minutes in specified marked bays.

- (iv) **Recreation Ground Car Parks, Canterbury –**
Toddlers Cove and Victoria Recreation Ground (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Toddlers Cove

Up to 2 hours	10p
Over 2 hours an hourly rate of	£1

Victoria Recreation Ground

Up to 3 hours	10p
Over 3 hours an hourly rate of	£1

- (v) **Other Canterbury car parks –**
Cow Lane, Kingsmead and Maynard Road (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Up to 5 hours	80p**
5 to 24 hours	£2.20

Kingsmead Leisure Centre

Up to 3 hours	£1**
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**This fee for the Kingsmead and Kingsmead Leisure Centre car parks will be refunded on admission to users of the Kingsmead Leisure Centre. Motorcycles will be free of charge.

- (vi) **Long Stay, Herne Bay –**
Beach Street, King's Road* and Market Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm:

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	60p
Maximum charge	£3

*Not available on Saturday, some Sundays and Bank Holidays as a car park.

School Lane, Herne and Reculver Towers, Reculver (Motor cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8am and 6pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	20p
30 minutes to 2 hours	40p
2 to 24 hours	£1

- (vii) **Short Stay, Herne Bay –**
William Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	80p

A maximum fee of £2.40 is refunded upon admission to those persons using Herons Leisure Centre.

- (viii) **Neptune** (Motor Cars only)
 Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:
- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| Minimum fee | 40p |
| Per hour | 80p |
- Neptune** (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)
 Good Friday to 30 September
- | | |
|------------|-----|
| Any period | £11 |
|------------|-----|

Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)

1 October to Maundy Thursday

Any period	£1.80
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- (ix) **Whitstable Short Stay –**
Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road and Victoria Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	90p

- (x) **Whitstable Harbour –**
Harbour (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	60p
30 minutes to 1 hour	£1
1 to 2 hours	£3
Over 2 hours	Penalty Charge incurred

Oyster (Motor Cars etc)

Up to 30 minutes	60p
30 minutes to 1 hour	£1
1 to 3 hours	£3
3 to 5 hours	£3.50
5 to 24 hours	£4.60

NOTE: The Harbour car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

- (xi) **Whitstable Long Stay –**
Tankerton Road (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	60p
Maximum charge	£3

- (xii) **Other Whitstable –**
Whitstable Swimming Pool

Between 7am and 10pm daily:

Up to 3 hours	£1**
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**NOTE 1: This fee will be refunded on admission to users of the Swimming Pool.

NOTE 2: The Swimming Pool car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

- (xiii) **Park and Ride Service**
 New Dover Road, Sturry Road and Wincheap, Canterbury
- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| per day or part thereof | £3 |
|-------------------------|----|

- (xiv) **Charges for Public Service Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight (as permitted):**
 Canterbury Coach Park and Kingsmead car park
- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| Per 12 hours | £15 |
|--------------|-----|
- William Street and Neptune, Herne Bay and Tankerton Road, Whitstable
- | | |
|-------------------------|----|
| per day or part thereof | £3 |
|-------------------------|----|

- (xv) **All other car parks** Free
 (Except those referred to in Part A (xi))

- (xvi) **Permits – all prices are per annum and inclusive of VAT.**

Business User	
Canterbury reserved space	£843
Canterbury	£665
Castle Street	£775
Herne Bay and Whitstable	£112
Whitstable Harbour	£90

Accommodation permits – available at £2 each and a Canterbury 24 hour permit available at £6 each with minimum purchases of 10 and 10% discount if 50 or more are purchased.

Residents' off peak permit (limited) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle between 5pm on one day and 9am on the following day and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays

in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £156

Residents' off-street permit (full) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle at any time in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £560

Castle Street Residents' permit £575

Station Road West car park rail user permit available for rail season ticket holders to park on Mondays to Fridays £88 per month

Residents' permit for residents of Herne Bay and Whitstable for the parking of motor cars in all car parks in Herne Bay and Whitstable respectively other than Whitstable Harbour and the Swimming Pool car parks. £112

School Lane Residents Permit for the parking of a motor car in School Lane car park, Herne £112

- (xvii) **Pay and Display payment card**

Discount of 10% for all pay and display car parks

- (xviii) **Park and Ride payment card**

Discount of 20% for all Park and Ride car parks

- (xix) **Neptune car park parking card, Herne Bay** (for commercial fishermen and regular users to park at any time in that car park).

50% discount rate of normal fee

- (xx) **Administration Fee**

£10 per amendment

- (xxi) **Penalty charge – payable in the event of non or insufficient payment of above fees or any breach of the Order.**

£70 or £50 PROVIDED that the penalty charge shall be reduced to £35 or £25 if payment is received by the Director of Resources within 14 days of the date on which the penalty charge was issued (or any other amount recommended by the Secretary of State for the time being and approved by Members of the Council.)

(NOTE: The above charges apply every day of the week including Bank Holidays unless stated).

Any of the car parks listed above, or parts thereof, may be closed by the Council when required for a purpose of the Council or authorised by them.

A copy of the Order may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.	Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Herne Bay Divisional Office, William Street, Herne Bay	Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

If you wish to question the validity of the Order, or any provision contained in it, on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the 1984 Act or on the grounds that any requirement of any Act or of any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from 28 February 2014, apply to the High Court of this purpose.

Dated this 9th day of March 2014.

Colin Carmichael
 Chief Executive
 Canterbury City Council
 Military Road
 Canterbury CT1 1YW

HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD (PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads within the Ashford district, on or after 10 March 2014.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

WHITE HILL, BOUGHTON ALUPH – closed for its entire length (between A28 Canterbury Road and A251 Faversham Road)

Monday 10 March 2014 for up to 6 days (including Saturday)

The alternative route is via A28 Canterbury Road, Wye Road & A251 Faversham Road

PLURENDEN ROAD, WOODCHURCH – closed between the junctions with Redbrook Street and Bethersden Road

Monday 17 March 2014 for up to 6 days (including Saturday)

The alternative route is via Redbrook Street and Bethersden Road

STATION ROAD, PLUCKLEY – closed between Lambden Road and the Railway Bridge

Monday 24 March 2014 for up to 6 days (including Saturday)

The alternative route is via Malmaison Road, Dowle Street Road, Sparrow Hatch Lane, Bethersden Road & Pluckley Road

It is planned that roads will be closed between 07:30 hours and 17:30 hours each day and re-opened outside these times, but there may be certain occasions when the nature of works prevents a road being re-opened.

WATERY LANE, WESTWELL, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of bridge repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Watery Lane, Westwell, Ashford.

Watery Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the domestic railway bridge, with no through access along Watery Lane.

Overnight closures are planned to commence from Monday 24 March 2014 for up to 5 nights, between 21:30 hours through until 05:30 hours each night.

The alternative route is via A20 Maidstone Road, Sandyhurst Lane, Westwell Lane and Watery Lane.

HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

RECTORY LANE, BARHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow works to be carried out to clear blockages in phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Rectory Lane, Barham.

Rectory Lane will be closed from the junction with The Street to Court Cottage.

A closure is planned to commence from 24 March 2014 for up to 4 days.

The alternative route is via The Street, Gravel Castle Road and Rectory Lane.

Due to the nature of the works, it is unlikely the road can be re-opened outside the working hours.

HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

HOME GARDENS, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the need to carry out repairs to the expansion joint to Hanau Bridge as the runner has cracked and needs welding and the surfacing needs repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Home Gardens, Dartford, on or after 30th March 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The lane will be closed southbound over the bridge.

The alternative route is via: bus lane.

HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD, LOWER STANDEN, ALKHAM (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public and workforce during works to upgrade the Pumping Station, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on part of Alkham

Valley Road, Lower Standen, Alkham, on or after 24 March 2014.

The 30 mph speed limit applies to the section of Alkham Valley Road from a point 200 metres south of the junction with Standen Lane to the junction with Stombers Lane, and applies in both directions, as and when the relevant signs are on site.

The speed limit remains in force until the works have been completed, with an estimated completion date of 10 November 2014.

BEWSBURY CROSS LANE, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on Bewsbury Cross Lane, Whitfield.

Bewsbury Cross Lane will be closed in sections for most of its length.

Phased closures are planned to commence from 24 March 2014 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative through route is via Sandwich Road and Nursery Lane.

Access to Grace Meadow will be maintained from one or other direction as the works progress.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

LYDDEN HILL RACE CIRCUIT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

For the safety of the public during event weekends at Lydden Hill Race Circuit, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in the vicinity of the circuit, on or after 24 March 2014, as shown below.

On the days listed, the following roads will be closed

DENTON LANE and SHELVIN LANE closed at their junctions with A260 Canterbury Road

GEDDINGE LANE closed at the junction with the A2 Trunk Road

WOOTTON LANE closed at the junction with Stockham Lane

The above closures are between 07:00 hours and 13:00 hours each day

SHELVIN LANE closed at the junction with the A2 Trunk Road, between 15:30 hours and 18:00 hours each day.

Managed access will be allowed for residents and visitors having a valid Permit

There will be no access for through traffic from the A260 Canterbury Road / The Street to Lydden Hill Race Circuit

The alternative route to Lydden Hill Race Circuit is via the A260 The Street, Canterbury Road and A2 Trunk Road.

These restrictions apply on the following dates

29 & 30 March 2014

19 & 20 April 2014

5 May 2014

24 & 25 May 2014

28 & 29 June 2014

9 & 10 August 2014

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (CARRIAGEWAY PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads within the Dover area, on or after 26 March 2014.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

WATERWORKS HILL, LANGDON – closed between the junctions with East Langdon Road / The Street and Abbey Road

28 March for 2 days

Alternative route via East Langdon Road, Church Lane, Waldershare Lane and Abbey Road

THE STREET (GORE TOP LANE), WORTH closed from the National Speed limit sign eastwards to the end of the road

31 March for 3 days

There is no alternative route; every effort will be made to maintain access when safe to do so, but there may be delays and times when no access possible.

WILLOW WOODS ROAD, LITTLE MONGEHAM – closed between Lower Mill Lane and Beacon Hill

2 April for 3 days*

Alternative route via Willow Woods Road, Roman Road, Homestead Lane, Downs Road, Church Hill, Vale Road and Beacon Hill

WILLOW ROAD and NORTHBORNE ROAD, GREAT MONGEHAM

– closed between Beacon Hill and Mongeham Road

2 April for 3 days*

Alternative route via Beacon Hill, Sutton Road and Mongeham Road

* Once works completed on Willow Woods Road, work will then switch to Willow Road and Northbourne Road.

SHEPHERDSWELL ROAD, SHEPHERDSWELL / EYTHORNE

– closed between Barfestone road and Church Hill

4 April 2014 for 4 days

Alternative route via Eythorne Road, Westcourt Lane, Westcourt Downs, Barfestone Lane, Barfestone Road and Church Hill, Eythorne

It is planned that roads will be closed between 07:30 hours and 17:00 hours each day and re-opened outside these times, but there may be certain occasions when the nature of works prevents a road being re-opened.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESEND AREA

BATTS ROAD, COBHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of, a detailed bridge examination being carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Batts Road, Cobham, on or after 15th March 2014 between the hours of 08.00hrs and 20.00hrs for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Henley Street and Gold Street.

HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

A289, WAINSCOTT NORTHERN BYPASS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of, the replacement of the enhanced message sign on the gantry on the westbound carriageway Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A289, Wainscott Northern Bypass, for up to 2 nights between the hours of 21.00 and 06.00hrs. The dates are as follows:

10th/11th March 2014

11th/12th March 2014

The road will be closed Westbound carriage way from A226 Gravesend Road to M2 Junction 1.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions

The alternative route is via The A226 Gravesend Road, B2108 Rede Court Road, A2 Watling Street (westbound) A2 West Bound and coastbound traffic will be diverted off at the Cobham turn off and rejoin the A2, Coastbound via Brewers Road (overbridge) Shorne.

HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

ARUNDEL STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Arundel Street, Maidstone, on or after 10 March 2014 for up to 22 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed and also at the junction with Perry Street.

The alternative route is via Hillington Street, Canning Street and Peel Street and for Perry Street via Albert Street and Perryfield Street.

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) WAITING RESTRICTIONS CONSOLIDATION VARIATION NO 19 ORDER 2014

Road Traffic regulation Act 1984

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers and under Sections (1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 44, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

- The effect of the Order will introduce waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of roads:

Arundel Square: From its junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Courtenay Road: Northern side, from its junction with Tovil Road for distance of 82 metres in a southerly direction.

Courtenay Road: Southern side, from its junction with Tovil Road for distance of 119 metres in a southerly direction.

Eccleston Road: Eastern side, from its junction with Tovil Road to a point 163 metres northwest of that junction.

Eccleston Road: Eastern side, from a point 56 metres northwest of its junction with Stafford Gardens to the end of the road.

Eccleston Road: Western side, from its junction with Tovil Road to a point 39 metres northwest of that junction.

Eccleston Road: Western side, from a point 14 metres southeast of its junction with Arundel Square for a distance of 79 metres in a north-westerly direction from that junction.

- The effect of the Order will also introduce waiting restrictions (single yellow lines) Monday to Friday 8:30am to 9:30am and 2:00pm to 3:00pm on the following roads or length of roads:

Cornhill Place: Both sides, from its junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Eccleston Road: Eastern side, from a point 8 metres southeast of its junction with Stafford Gardens to a point 56 metres northwest of that junction.

Eccleston Road: Western side, from a point 8 metres southeast of its junction with Stafford Gardens to the end of the road.

Stafford Gardens: Both sides, from its junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6 metres in a north-easterly direction.

The Order will come into effect on Wednesday 12th March 2014.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm and at Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS – SEVENOAKS AREA

VARIOUS ROADS SEAL AND SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of essential fibre-optic broadband works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads Seal and Sevenoaks, on or after 29th March 2014 as described in the Schedule below and up to or until the works have been completed.

SCHEDULE

Road Name:	Park Lane Seal
Extent:	from the junction of Bitchett Green Road and Bridle Road
Dates:	29th March 2014 for 8 days
Diversion:	Grove Road, Hall Hill, Stone Street, Bitchett Green Road and vice versa
Road Name:	Black Hall Lane
Extent:	from the junction of Seal Hollow Road and Park Lane
Dates:	28th April 2014 for 10 days
Diversion:	Seal Hollow Road, Seal Road, High Street, Park Lane and vice versa
Road Name:	Carters Hill, Seal
Extent:	junction between Fawke Wood Road and vicinity Forge Cottage, Underiver
Dates:	28th April 2014 for 10 days
Diversion:	St Julians Road, A225 Riverhill, B245 London Road Hildenborough and Bank Lane Hildenborough and vice versa

Access will be maintained up to the points of the closure.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KINGSDOWN, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING & SPEED LIMIT RESCRITION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 (SECTION 16 A)

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads, West Kingsdown as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 30th March 2014, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 12 months; the event is planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

SCHEDULE 1

Restriction:	Temporary One Way Order Eastbound from 06.00 – 20.00 hours.
Road Name:	Scratchers Lane, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	From its junction with A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill to its junction with Three Gates Lane.
Diversion:	A20 London Road and Fawkham Road. Traffic lights will also be placed at the junction of A20 London Road and Gorse Hill that will be manually controlled between 06.00 – 22.00 hours to assist vehicles leaving Brands Hatch Race Circuit.
Dates:	30th March, 20th April, 21st April, 20th July, 12th October, 19th October 2014
Restriction:	30mph Speed Limit from 06.00 – 20.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent:	Between WJ Kings Garage London Road, Farningham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Dates:	30th March, 13th April, 20th April, 21st April, 18th May, 18th May, 8th June, 20th July, 31st August, 21st September, 12th October, 19th October, 2nd November, 8th November 2014
Restriction:	Suspend Cycle Lane Order from 06.00 – 20.00 hours.
Road Name:	A20 London Road/ Gorse Hill, West Kingsdown.
Extent 1:	Between Eynsford Road, Farningham and Twenty Mile Texaco Petrol Station, West Kingsdown.
Diversion:	Cyclists should dismount and walk along the pavement for the length of the restriction.
Dates:	30th March, 13th April, 20th April, 21st April, 18th May, 8th June, 20th July, 12th October, 19th October, 2nd November 2014
Restriction:	No Right Turn from 06.00 – 20.00 hours.
Diversion:	1: Into Donkey Lane southbound from A20 London Road/Gorse Hill. 2: Out of Donkey Lane onto A20 London Road/Gorse Hill.
Diversion:	traffic exiting Donkey Lane will be diverted northbound on the A20 and will be permitted to turn around at the Farningham roundabout and then travel southbound
Dates :	30th March, 13th April, 20th April, 21st April, 18th May, 8th June, 20th July, 12th October, 19th October, 2nd November 2014

The purpose of the restrictions is to facilitate safety to road users and members of the public.

HIGHWAYS – SHEPWAY AREA

THE TRAM ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install warning signs on a bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of The Tram Road, Folkestone.

An overnight closure is planned for Sunday 16 March 2014 from 18:00 hours through until 06:00 hours.

The Tram Road, Folkestone will be closed in the vicinity of the Radnor Bridge Road overbridge.

There will be direct access to Folkestone Harbour during these works.

The alternative route is via A260 Southern Way, Dover Road, Hill Road, Canterbury Road, Black Bull Road, A2033 Foord Road North, New Street, Bradstone Road, Dover Road, Grace Hill, Shellons Street, Middelburg

Square, Cheriton Place, Sandgate Road, West Terrace, Road of Remembrance – note 7.5 T weight limit – and Lower Sandgate Road.

Please note that the diversion route is not suitable for vehicles over 7.5 T in weight on Road of Remembrance.

IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 17) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to prohibit waiting at the following locations:-

No Waiting At Any Time (double yellow lines)

Canterbury Road – On the north east side of the road, for a distance of 10m either side of the junction with Mill Lane.

Mill Lane – On the west side of the road from the junction with Canterbury Road for a distance of 10m in a northerly direction.

On the west Side of the road for a distance of 10m either side of the junction with St Denys Road.

On the east side of the road from the junction with Old Rectory Close for a distance of 21m in a northerly direction.

On the east side of the road from the junction with Old Rectory Close for a distance of 10m in a southerly direction.

On the east side of the road from the junction with Canterbury Road for a distance of 17m in a northerly direction.

Old Rectory Close – From the junction with Mill Lane for a distance of 10m in a south easterly direction on both sides of the road

No Waiting (Single yellow lines) Mon-Fri between 7:30am-8:45am and 2:45pm-4:00pm

Mill Lane – On the west side of the from a point 10m north of the junction with Canterbury Road for a distance of 42m in a northerly direction.

On the west side of the road from a point 110m north of the junction with Canterbury Road for a distance of 48m in a northerly direction.

On the east side of the road from a point 10m south of the junction with Old Rectory Close for a distance of 137m in a southerly direction.

Old Rectory Close – On the north east side of the road, from a point 10m south east of the junction with Mill Lane around the entirety of Old Rectory Close up to a point 10 south east of the junction with Mill Lane on the south west side of the road.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours at Kent County Council Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH and at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Traffic Schemes Team., Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 31 March 2014.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 16) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to prohibit waiting at any time (double yellow lines) at the following locations:-

Hythe

A259 Dymchurch Road – On the northwest side of the road, either side of the entrance to Pennypot Industrial Estate Entrance Road, for a distance of 10m.

Pennypot Industrial Estate Entrance Road – On both sides of the road from the junction with A259 Dymchurch Road for a distance of 10m in a north-westerly direction.

Cheriton

Firs Lane, Cheriton – On the west side of the road for a distance of 10m either side of the junction with Star Lane.

Star Lane, Cheriton – On both sides of the road for a distance of 10m in a westerly direction from the junction with Firs Lane.

A copy of the proposed Order, and explanatory statement and a plan showing the area of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Traffic Schemes Team, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or by email to tro@kent.gov.uk by Monday 31 March 2014

HIGHWAYS – SWALE AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HIGH STREET SHEERNESS) (EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION) ORDER 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council suspends in its entirety the above named Order, under Section 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to terminate the experiment to prohibit driving in High Street, Sheerness between 9.30am and 4.30pm on Saturdays.

The Order has been suspended after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police, in the interests of preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which any road affected by the order runs, and this suspension shall come into effect on Monday 10 March 2014.

HOLYWELL LANE, UPCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to the overhead network for cabling to restore customer phone services, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Holywell Lane, Upchurch.

Off peak closures are planned to commence from 10 March 2014 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

Holywell Lane will be closed between the properties Tree Tops and Holywell Farm, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Breach Lane, The Street and Holywell Lane.

HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

ALL SAINTS' AVENUE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of bridge strengthening and repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of All Saints' Avenue, Margate.

A closure is planned to commence from Saturday 15 March 2014 at 00:30 hours through to Monday 17 March at 06:00 hours.

All Saints' Avenue will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A28 Marine Terrace, Canterbury Road, B2052 Hartsdown Road and All Saints' Avenue.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

HAWLEY STREET & KING STREET, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of road and footway works in connection with the Turner Pedestrian Route Improvements, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of Hawley Street and King Street, Margate, on or after 16 March 2014 as shown below.

B2055 HAWLEY STREET will be closed on the Sundays of 16 and 23 March 2014, with the likelihood of an additional closure on 30 March 2014.

The road will be closed between 10:00 hours and 16:00 hours each Sunday

The closures are between the junctions with Cecil Square and Lombard Street.

The alternative route is via B2055 Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Northdown Road, Zion Place, B2051 Fort Crescent, Fort Hill, The Parade, Marine Drive, Marine Gardens, Queen Street and Cecil Square.

KING STREET will be closed from 17 March 2014 for 3 weeks, Monday to Saturday each week.

The closures are between the junctions with Hawley Street And Broad Street

The alternative route is via Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Northdown Road, Zion Place, B2051 Fort Crescent and Fort Road.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING

COMMON ROAD, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new gas service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Common Road, Ightham, on or after 10 March 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside the property "Faix".

The alternative route is via Sandy Lane, Coach Road and Copt Hall Road.

B2260 HIGH STREET, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to re-waterproof the bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting southbound traffic on B2260 High Street, on or after 10 March 2014 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

There will be no access for southbound traffic between A26 Vale Road and Medway Wharf Road.

The alternative route is via A227 Bordyke/Hadlow Road, A26 Cannon Lane/Vale Road, Sovereign Way, Avenue Du Puy and A26 Vale Road.

PILGRIMS WAY/BATTLEFIELDS, WROTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of maintenance to the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way/Battlefields, Wrotham, on or after 24 March 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Old London Road to Kemsing Road.

The alternative route is via Kemsing Road, High Street and Old London Road.

B2016 SEVEN MILE LANE, A20 LONDON ROAD & FORD LANE, PLATT/ADDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING, 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION & PROHIBITION OF LEFT & RIGHT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a highway improvement scheme, Kent County Council intends to make an Order with various restrictions as shown below, on or after 24th March 2014 or until the works have been completed.

B2016 Seven Mile Lane:

Prohibit southbound traffic between Teston Road and A20 London Road – diversion is via A20 London Road, A228 Ashton Way, A228 Malling Road and A26 Tonbridge Road. Prohibit right hand turn into A20 London Road- diversion is via A20 London Road round the Wrotham Heath Roundabout and back on the A20 London Road. It will be necessary to carry out various night-time or Sunday closures between Teston Road and A20 London Road. The planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance and will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place. The diversion will be via A20 London Road, A228 Ashton Way, A228 Malling Road and A26 Tonbridge Road.

A20 London Road:

30 mph speed restriction from A25 Maidstone Road to St Vincent's Lane. Prohibit right turn into B2016 Seven Mile Lane–diversion is via A20 London Road, A228 Ashton Way, A228 Malling Road and A26 Tonbridge Road. Prohibit left turn into B2016 Seven Mile Lane–diversion is via A20 London Road round the Wrotham Heath Roundabout and back on the A20 London Road.

Ford Lane:

Prohibit traffic from A20 London Road for approximately 20 metres. It will be necessary to carry out various night-time closures. The planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance and will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 03000 418181 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

are in place. The diversion will be via Wrotham Water Road, Pilgrims Way, Nepicar Lane and A20 London Road.

HIGHWAYS – TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

REDWINGS LANE, PEMBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install ducts and electric cables, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Redwings Lane, Pembury, on or after 10 March 2014 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via A228 Maidstone Road/Pembury Northern By-Pass.

TONBRIDGE ROAD, PEMBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to a major project to install new high voltage electrical cables, Kent County Council intends to make an order prohibiting Southbound through traffic on Tonbridge Road, Pembury from the A21 junction for 600 metres on or after 24th March 2014 for up to two weeks or until the works have been completed.

Northbound traffic on Tonbridge Road will be unaffected. Access to Pembury Hospital will be from A228, Pembury Road.

The alternative route is via: A21 Southbound to A228 Pembury Road, Tonbridge Road.

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 5 ORDER 2014

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

Reduce the speed limit on Brenchley Road and Coppers Lane, Brenchley to 40mph

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

WATERMAN'S LANE, BRENCHELY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to reconstruct the culvert, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Waterman's Lane, Brenchley, on or after 10 March 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside The Kent National Golf and Country Club.

The alternative route is via Chantler's Hill, Mascal's Court Road, Mascal's Court Lane and Mile Oak Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 9th March 2014

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 03000 418181 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/0512/S - WIERTON PLACE, WIERTON ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JW - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations and extensions to facilitate the change of use of existing nightclub and apartments to 1 dwelling and 6 apartments, including extensions and internal works; conversion and extension of the existing ball room to 2 dwellings; demolition of existing garage block and erection of 4 terraced properties; conversion and extension of existing glasshouses to 6 dwellings; and the erection of 5 detached dwellings to the north and south of the access track, together with associated access and landscape works in accordance with plans numbered 09.79.50 Rev A; 09.79.51 Rev A; 09.79.101 Rev B; 09.79.104 Rev A; 09.79.105 Rev A; D132799/1; 09.79.106 Rev A; 09.79.107 Rev A; 09.79.108 Rev A; 09.79.109 Rev A; 09.79.110 Rev A; 09.79.111; 09.79.112; 09.79.113 Rev A; 09.79.114 Rev A; 09.79.115 Rev A; 09.79.116; 09.79.117; 09.79.118; 09.79.119; 09.79.120; 09.79.121; 09.79.122; 2082-01 Tree Survey Drawing; D132799_1-Sheet-2; D132799_1-Sheet_3; D132799_8_R1-A0; D132799_9_R1-A0; D132799_10_A1-Conservatory; D132799_11-A0_Roof Plan; 07.79.100_Location Plan; 6037 Bat Emergence Report (received 11 October 2011); Valuation Report (received 11 October 2011); Design and Access Statement; and Tree Survey Report as received on the 7 April 2011. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0021/S - CORNERWAYS, HIGH STREET, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9DR - An application for listed building consent for replacement of existing front windows with double glazed units. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0094/N - MOUNT LODGE, CHURCH LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EF - Erection of dwellinghouse and engineering operations to create off road parking (replacement of expired consent MA/10/0854). **Reason: 4**

MA/14/0099/S - LUCKS COTTAGE, HERMITAGE LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4DA - Detached garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0125/N - KOBAN HOUSE, GRAVELLY BOTTOM ROAD, KINGSWOOD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3NT - Retrospective application for change of use of agricultural land to recreational use (football pitch used by family and friends). **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0154/S - COURT LODGE FARM, FORGE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0HQ - Installation of solar panels and associated equipment to enable energy generation for the farm and associated businesses. Connection to the national grid for any surplus. **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0167/S - MID KENT COLLEGE, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Recladding of buildings and re-arrangement of car parks and hard and soft landscaping and associated works. **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0172/N - BARN COTTAGE, EAST STREET, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1HL - Erection of a single storey side extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/14/0174/N - LAND EAST OF GLEBE GARDENS, OLD ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, KENT - Outline application for the erection of 9 houses with access to be considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 1, 9**

MA/14/0181/N - FAIRWAYS, THURNHAM LANE, THURNHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4PL - Erection of a detached two storey dwelling. **Reason: 9**

MA/14/0225/N - LENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2QH - An application for the demolition of United Reform Church and adjoining hall to facilitate the erection of 25No. dwellings on this land and land to the south with associated parking, access (from Maidstone Road) and landscaping. **Reason: 4**

MA/14/0226/N - LENHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2QH - Demolition of United Reform Church and adjoining hall to facilitate the erection of 25No. dwellings on this land and land to the south with associated parking, access (from Maidstone Road) and landscaping. **Reason: 2, 3, 6**

MA/14/0241/S - BEGGARS ROOST, WELL STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EN - Erection of 2 pairs of semi-detached dwellings (4No. dwellings total). **Reason: 2, 3**

MA/14/0248/N - FULFILL MILL HOUSE, CARING LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TJ - Erection of a single storey extension to south-west elevation (resubmission of MA/13/2107). **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0249/N - FULFILL MILL HOUSE, CARING LANE, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TJ - Listed Building Consent for erection of a single storey extension to south-west elevation (resubmission of MA/13/2108). **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0251/S - MID KENT COLLEGE OF HIGHER AND, OAKWOOD PARK, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8AQ - Erection of sports hall and leisure centre with ancillary car park and landscaping works. **Reason: 6**

MA/14/0260/N - CRISMILL MANOR, CRISMILL LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4NT - Replacement of existing outbuildings with annexe. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0264/N - WILLOWS, 79, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TS - Installation of 1(no) rooftop. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/14/0274/S - WARDES MOAT, VICARAGE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6DY - Single storey side extension and addition of rooflights. **Reason: 1**

MA/14/0275/S - WARDES MOAT, VICARAGE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6DY - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations, including relocation of staircase, single storey side extension and addition of rooflights. **Reason: 3**

MA/14/0276/N - 3, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5BJ - Internal alterations to ground, 1st and 2nd floors. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed can be viewed on our website www.maidstone.gov.uk or at the Maidstone Gateway (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **23rd March 2014**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 9th March 2014



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/03817/HOUSE Tanners Farm Church Lane, Capel
- Installation of a flue for wood burning stove (LB)

13/03819/LBC Tanners Farm Church Lane, Capel
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of a flue for wood burning stove (LB)

14/00527/FULL Land Rear Of Wyndhurst, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Erection of two storey dwelling with detached double garage (CA)

14/00584/FULL Beechurst Hurstwood Lane, Culverden
- Two-storey extension attached to side of main house; Alterations to front garden and parking arrangements (CA)

14/00547/OUT Land West Of Birchfield, Hawkhurst
- Outline: Access Not Reserved - 26 residential dwellings together with a new access and associated parking for Rydon Homes Ltd (MAJOR) (LB) (DEVPLN)

13/03137/FULL Lewes Heath House Lewes Heath, Horsmonden
- (Land adjacent) Change of use of field from agricultural to equestrian (use commenced) (MAJOR) (LB)

14/00559/LBC War Memorial The Green, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Cleaning and maintenance of war memorial (LB)

14/00533/FULL Mabledon London Road, Southborough Town Council
- Conversion of mansion house to 9 No. self-contained apartments (LB)

14/00535/LBC Mabledon London Road, Southborough Town Council
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of mansion house to 9 No. self-contained apartments (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman

Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN11 1RS

Dated: 08 March 2014



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING APPLICATIONS LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00973 Bricking up of internal doorway
Ardmore Guest House, 18 Castle Hill Road, Dover, CT16 1QW LCN

DOV/13/01057 Conversion of garage to kitchen and dining room, construction of hardstanding and retaining wall, installation of glazed doors, steps and railings and associated internal and external alterations
1 Saxon Street, Dover, CT17 9RT LCN

DOV/13/01008 Erection of two detached buildings incorporating 10 flats (existing buildings to be demolished) "amended plans"
St. Johns Ambulance Hall, Mill Hill, Deal, CT14 9EN MAJ

DOV/13/01056 Conversion of garage to kitchen and dining room, construction of hardstanding and retaining wall, installation of glazed doors, steps and railing and associated internal and external alterations
1 Saxon Street, Dover, CT17 9RT LCN

DOV/14/00054 Erection of two storey front and rear extensions incorporating a balcony, a single storey side extension and a roof extension (existing extension to be demolished)
Woodlands, The Avenue, Kingsdown, Deal, CT14 8DU ARW

DOV/14/00075 5 Erection of single and two storey rear extensions
St Georges Place, Sandwich, CT13 9LW CON

DOV/14/00080 Erection of a rear porch extension
23-25, Church Street St Mary, Sandwich, CT13 9HL LCN

Reason for Advert Codes:-

ARW - Affects a Public Right of Way **LCN** - Listed Building in a Conservation Area
CON - Within Conservation Area **MAJ** - Major Development

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent **within 21 days** marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW – IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB334 IN THE PARISH OF BEKESBOURNE-WITH-PATRIXBORNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB334 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath CB334, between its junction with Public Footpaths CB170 & CB158 and its junction with School Road from the 6th March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is closed because the path is flooded and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER231 IN THE PARISH OF CAPEL-LE-FERNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER231 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath ER231, from its junction with Alkham Valley Road for approximately 50 metres to TR2394 4028, from the 3rd March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is an alternative route which will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Denise Roffey.
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH HM15 IN THE PARISH OF SNARGATE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH HM15 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath HM15,

between its junction with Brack Lane and St Thomas a Becketts Church from the 5th March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is closed because works to assess and repair a damaged bridge are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Beckett Road and Brack Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH HM126 IN THE PARISH OF ST MARY IN THE MARSH

PUBLIC FOOTPATH HM126 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath HM126, between its junction with Public Footpath HM128 and Public Footpath HM210 from the 5th March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is closed because works to assess and repair a damaged bridge are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Public Footpath HM129 and St Mary's Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH MU30 IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MU30) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 13th August 2013 and coming into effect on the 2nd September 2013, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath MU30 has been extended for a further 6 months, until the 2nd September 2014.

The path is closed from between the Gardens of Remembrance and River Lawn, a distance of approximately 50 metres.

There is an alternative route using pedestrian bridges to the sports ground.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snoding
Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MT150 IN THE PARISH OF HADLOW

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MT150 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath MT150, between its junction with Public Footpath MT136 and Public Footpath MT151 from the 3rd March 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is closed because works to assess and repair river bank erosion beneath the southern bridge abutment are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact David Munn

Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF HEARING

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTION 119 & WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine

Kent County Council

(Public Footpath ZR24 (part), Upchurch) Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Order 2012 and will attend at:

Upchurch Village Hall, (r/o Crown Public House), The Street, Upchurch, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7AJ on Tuesday 15 April 2014 at 10.00am

To hold a hearing into the Order

The effect of the Order, if confirmed without modifications, will be to **divert** the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered ZR24 which commences at NGR TQ 84491 66690 (Point A on the map attached to the Order) and runs in an east north easterly direction for 149 metres to its connection with the unaffected section of public footpath ZR24 and public footpath ZR23 at NGR TQ 84624 66759 (Point B on the map attached to the Order) **and will add** a new length of public footpath numbered ZR24 which commences at NGR TQ 84491 66690 (Point A on the map attached to the Order) and runs in an east south easterly direction along an access track for 107 metres to NGR TQ 84586 66643 (Point C on the map attached to the Order). The path then leaves the access track and runs in a north easterly direction for 34 metres to NGR TQ 84611 66665 (Point D on the map attached to the Order) and thence in a northerly direction for 95 metres to its connection with the unaffected section of public footpath ZR24 and public footpath ZR23 at NGR TQ 84624 66759 (Point B on the map attached to the Order).

The new length of public footpath ZR24 has a width of 3 metres for a distance of 107 metres as it passes along the access track (between NGR TQ 84491 66690 (Point A on the map attached to the Order) and NGR TQ 84586 66643 (Point C on the map attached to the Order)). The new length of path then reduces in width to 2 metres for the remainder of its length.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to this Order may do so by appointment on Mondays-Fridays between 10.00 and 16.00 at Kent County Council, Public Rights of Way and Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Please telephone Mrs Maria McLauchlan on 01622 696871 to make an appointment.

Planning Inspectorate Reference: FPS/W2275/4/41.

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate:

Clive Richards, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing,

Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.

Tel: 0303 4445502

Email: clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 9th March 2014

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
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Archant **Kent on Sunday** **KENT LIFE**

Intrepid Millie, 15, takes to ski slopes for Sochi Paralympics

MILLIE Knight's bravery knows no bounds. Left visually impaired at the age of six, she stuck with her skiing and this week at the age of 15 in Sochi will be Great Britain's youngest-ever competitor at a Paralympic Games.

Unable to see more than two metres in front of her, the Canterbury schoolgirl will be talked through the course in the giant slalom and slalom by her guide via headsets.

Skiing at breakneck speeds is a scary enough prospect, but putting your faith in someone else to get you downhill takes trust levels to a new limit.

But it is what the intrepid teenager has known since she was six and would not give up if a cure to restore her sight became available.

"When I was about three I lost sight in my right eye, and by the age of six I lost sight in my left," she said. "I didn't really know anything different. I still think I have perfect sight!

"I've only got peripheral vision as I've got scarring on my retina in the middle. I can only see two metres in front of me.

"I try not to think about it as a problem and a disability. People treat me as a normal person. With not having sight, I don't fear anything. If I lost more sight, it wouldn't affect me, but let's hope I don't."

Millie is visually impaired because of the virus toxocariasis. Originally picked up when she was three, it lay dormant for three years, just before she went on a skiing holiday.

Millie's mother Suzanne took a pragmatic approach to her daughter's diagnosis, as well as letting her learn to ski.

"I wasn't panicked," she said. "You just have to get through that phase. I knew it wasn't life-threatening. We're all given these things to deal with, but you have to make the most of it.

"Millie doesn't want to see what we see. I said 'One day there may be a cure', but she said 'Oh no, no one's taking my sight away from me'.

Teen slalom sensation Millie Knight, who was selected to carry the Great Britain flag at this week's opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games in Sochi, talks to **Greg Miles**



NO FEAR: Millie Knight has been skiing since she was six and is a proud member of the British Paralympic team

"I just put her into ski school and didn't tell them in case they wouldn't teach her.

"I was never very worried about her because she was very sensible. She was still losing a bit of sight then and we didn't know that much about it."

The London 2012 Paralympics and build-up to it proved a big inspiration for Millie. It was a meeting with her skiing hero that provided the spark

she needed to take it more seriously. "In 2010 we went to The Ski and Snowboard Show in London, and we met Sean Rose, who was a former Paralympian and he inspired me to do competitive skiing," said Millie, a former pupil at Northbourne Park School near Deal. "We went up to the stand just to see him. He had just been to the Vancouver Games.

"The 2012 Games made people

more aware of Paralympic sport as well. Some people wouldn't even know what some of the sports were. I'm glad I'm going to 2014 on the back of 2012. If 2012 hadn't happened, people wouldn't watch it now, I don't think."

At first her mother was her guide in competitions, which helped with expenses, but it was not the ideal partnership.

"I was her guide for a couple of races, but I was just too slow," said Suzanne.

"We did win bronze once, though. I knew it would be temporary as the coaches were saying she needs a proper guide. The hesitancy was that we had to pay for that. We had to keep the costs down.

"I hated it. It was awful. It was too much stress and responsibility. I knew I wasn't good enough, but it solved a problem for a little while."

Millie will be competing with a relatively new guide, Rachel Farrier, after her previous companion on the slopes, Jennifer Kehoe, seriously injured her knee just before Christmas.

The team work together to learn each track before racing, as she explains: "Depending on the discipline, we are about a gate apart. I can't see the gates, so my guide skis me through the course.

"She tells me about the micro terrain, if there are ruts, ice bumps, light and dark areas and all different combinations in the course, where it changes direction.

"Before we race there is always an inspection where you go down the course slowly – we talk about what to say at certain points. At each course our commands change.

"In a race we have to be within two direction changes apart – if it's further than that you get disqualified.

“I try not to think about it as a problem and a disability. People treat me as a normal person. With not having sight, I don't fear anything”

Millie Knight,
Britain's youngest Paralympian

TEAMWORK: Charlotte Evans acts as a guide to Paralympian Kelly Gallagher



Charlotte the ski guide

ROCHESTER'S Charlotte Evans will be taking to the slopes in Sochi as a guide for visually-impaired skier Kelly Gallagher.

The 22-year-old, who has returned to action from a career-threatening knee injury, learnt to ski at Chatham Ski Centre as a youngster and will be taking part in the slalom.

"When I was 14, I moved to racing on snow," she said. "After getting fourth at the English Championships I was selected for the England Alpine Ski Team the season after.

"I continued trying to train as much as possible and then in 2009 I went to the English Championships and won best overall female, which was a great achievement for me.

"I then went on to the British Championships a month later and got injured, which forced me off the snow for nine months."

She bounced back, though, thanks to financial support from Medway Council and Medway Sport's Athlete Support Programme.

"I was able to still train without the



PARTNERSHIP: Paralympic slalom and giant slalom skier Millie Knight, right, and her ski guide Rachel Farrier

We never lose each other. She looks around to see where I am. Because I've got no depth, I can't see how far away she is.

"I've had great relationships and trusted my previous guides from day one. With my current guide it was quite tricky to start with, so the trust and things took a while to build up, but we're OK now."

The King's School student, who is taking her GCSEs next year, will be competing alongside experienced racers in the slalom and giant slalom next weekend.

Her selection was a complete surprise and a welcome birthday present on January 15. Coincidentally, to compete in the Paralympics an athlete must be 15 years old on or before January 15, making Millie the youngest she could possibly be to take part.

"I was at an indoor rowing competition all day," she said. "I didn't know how I would find out – would it be a text, email, would someone call me? I was getting quite stressed."

"I had to go back to school for an hour's lesson and as I was walking back I got a phone-call.

"I was told I'd got in, which was very exciting. I didn't know what to say. There was someone on the team who kept saying in a jokey way that I was going."

"Being the youngest adds to the excitement. It doesn't make me more nervous because I know there is no pressure. I will be happy as long as I don't come last – second to last would be cool."

While her friends will be hard at work, she will be gracing the same tracks used in the Olympics a matter of weeks ago.

But despite having several weeks away from school she will not be missing out.

"School have been absolutely amazing," she said.

"They've let me have the time off from February to March but have given me two months' worth of school work on memory sticks to take with me. I will also be catching up in the Easter holidays and summer."

She had originally been aiming for the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang,

South Korea, and now feels she will be better prepared than ever if she makes it then.

"I want to do well in South Korea – the experience in Sochi will help me with nerves. I will know what to expect in 2018. I don't know about 2022. I will see where it is first," she said.

"I really wasn't expecting to get in, to be honest. The South Korea Games was the one I was really aiming for."

Not one to forget the bigger picture, she has also given thought to what will happen beyond then.

"I think after that I want to do something to do with sport – physiotherapy. I want to work at Headley Court," she said.

"We have a few guys on the team who are ex-military and have had injuries from Afghanistan, and Help For Heroes have really helped them. They swear by their physios at Headley Court."

Millie will be in action on Friday, March 14, in the slalom, with the first run at midday and the second at 3pm. Her second competition, the giant slalom, is on Sunday, March 16, with runs at 5.30am and 9am.

and her 'shared dream' for success

cost of the membership of its leisure facilities," she said. "This helped my family massively."

"Being from a family who started with not a lot and taught to work for what you want, it was great that my parents had one thing less to think about while trying to give us the best chances to compete as high as possible."

"After my rehab I was eager to get back to skiing as quickly as possible, but after being told it would be a year I was determined to work

hard to make the process quicker.

"While recovering, I went into coaching and while doing this I was asked to be involved with the British Disabled Ski Team in guiding a blind girl. My first impression was 'That's a big responsibility'. I wasn't sure I was old enough at 18 to take on that role, but after discussion with my family I decided to try it."

"It was the best decision I ever made as I get to do the sport I love and give something back. It is a shared dream now and even though

skiing is an individual sport I work a lot better as a team and so I have worked with the same athlete, Kelly Gallagher, since November 2010.

"After only four weeks together we went to the World Championships and got a silver and a bronze – making us the first British Alpine skiers to win a medal at World Championships."

"Two years later, we went on to the next World Championships and competed in five disciplines and got four medals."

Kent accounts show a big improvement

KENT County Cricket Club has announced hugely improved financial results in its annual accounts.

EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) profits for the year ending October 31, 2013, amounted to £156,778.

This represents a year-on-year improvement of £429,072 compared with 2012-13 and a fifth successive annual EBITDA improvement, which has seen an improvement of £800,000 since 2009.

After interest, depreciation and the net impact of other items, which includes the profit on the sale of the former club office, the historical deficit for the year after taxation was £98,576, a striking improvement on the loss in 2012 of £628,054.

In addition to the improvement in trading results, the club was able to report a strengthened balance-sheet position.

Following a post-redevelopment revaluation of the ground, the tangible fixed assets of the club have increased from £12.4 million to £12.9 million.

Chief executive officer Jamie Clifford said: "We are all very encouraged that the club can present a much improved financial picture. This turnaround is a result of a comprehensive and clear plan, put in place in late 2009."

"All at the club have worked hard to ensure the delivery of that plan in



ENCOURAGED: Jamie Clifford

an effort to secure long-term sustainable profitability and financial stability.

"I would like to thank our members, supporters, commercial partners and sponsors for their continued support. Special mention must be made of Canterbury City Council for the part they have played in the improving picture and Shepherd Neame, the club's major long-term sponsor, who became ground-naming sponsor in 2013."

The club's AGM will be held on Monday, April 2, at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, at 7pm.

Members have been due to receive the financial accounts and report early this month.

Quaife-Hobbs joins Rapax for season

TONBRIDGE driver Adrian Quaife-Hobbs has been signed up by Italian team Rapax to race alongside Simon Trummer in the 2014 GP2 Series.

"I am very happy and proud to have Adrian in our team," said Rapax chief executive Andrea Bergamini.

"He is one of the most impressive young drivers of last season and he will be forming a high-quality couple with Simon."

It will be Quaife-Hobbs's second season in the feeder series, but Rapax will be the third team that he has driven for in the championship since moving up to GP2 after winning the 2012 Auto GP World Series title with Super Nova International.

Quaife-Hobbs, 23, made his GP2 debut last year in Malaysia with MP Motorport, collecting a runners-up spot on the podium in the Monaco sprint event in May, just eight races into his maiden season.

After six weekends with the team, Quaife-Hobbs made a mid-season switch to Hilmer Motorsports for the rest of 2013 and along the way

collected his first series win at the end of a hard-fought Monza sprint race in September.

"I am delighted to be joining Rapax for my 2014 season in GP2," said Pembury-born Quaife-Hobbs.

"After a successful rookie year in the 2013 GP2 season, I am looking forward to returning this season to fight for the championship."

Bergamini is similarly enthused. "Adrian can also benefit from the good developmental path he has enjoyed. He grew up season after season and did well in all the series he entered so far. I am also happy to welcome a driver from the British tradition."

"Quaife-Hobbs's signing comes with just under a week before all the GP2 teams are due to participate in the first of two pre-season test sessions, the first at Abu Dhabi from Tuesday to Thursday, March 11-13, and the second planned for Bahrain the following week."

The first race of the season will take place on Friday, April 4, in Bahrain.

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